

Parents and Guardians,

In school, students study many topics within the broad category of Social Studies. These topics may include community, maps, people, jobs, culture, languages, geography, government, history, and others. However, a child's first lessons in Social Studies can occur in his/her own neighborhood.

Parents can help their child learn about these topics through conversations and daily routines in their own neighborhood. Many skills can be covered simply by learning about people and places.

Maps – Work with your child to find or make a map of your neighborhood. Look for familiar landmarks such as your house and street, a friend's house, a school, the grocery store, the post office, and other places that you might visit. Walk or drive to these places with your child. He/she can follow along on the map as you travel. Older children can give directions.

Jobs – What are the different jobs that people have in your neighborhood? Talk about the responsibilities and hours of each job. What kind of schooling is needed to get that job? How does that job help the community?

Job examples:

- Mail carrier
- Jobs at the grocery store
- Police officer
- Firefighter
- Teacher
- Bus Driver

People – Who are the people in your community? Are there families, kids, mostly grown-ups, or some of each? Where did the people live before they moved to your neighborhood? Was it a different city, state, country, or just down the block? What languages do they speak? Do they have an accent? Extend the discussion by locating the represented places on a map. What can you learn about that place?

