

Investigating maps

Help increase children's spatial awareness, sense of community and knowledge of the world around them with this fabulous tip.

Maps can be great tools for teaching children about spatial awareness and the community and world around them.

Why not try the following ideas:

- Find a map of your local area, either a paper one or one online and talk to the children about the place names, road names and other places they can see
- Create a simple map of the community surrounding the nursery
 - Add in the local shops, the bus stops, post boxes and park
 - Are there any other things the children would like to add?



Ideally, it would be great if you could take the children out into the environment to see the places for themselves and take photos for the map and then add them in the right place. This will have much more meaning for them.

Extension

Why not look at a map of the world and see where their families have been on holiday or visited? Some children may have been born in different countries, can we see where they are?

Maps and globes are great tools to have in your setting and you can pick them up quite cheaply if you shop around. Look in charity shops, car boot sales and don't forget to try online!