

WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO GO?

WHO IS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

HOW DO YOU CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY



TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG

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#TALKINGISTEACHINGTIPS CALENDAR



Talk, read, and sing with your children every day! Simple interactions like the ones below can help boost children's brain and language development, setting them up for success in school and beyond. Please share photos of your family talking, reading, and singing using the hashtag #TalkingIsTeachingTips.

1 Talk about your favorite places in your community! "My favorite place is the park, because I love the trees and grass. What's your favorite place?"

2 Go on a walk around your neighborhood and point out the familiar buildings you see. "That's the bodega, where we get our groceries. What else do you see?"

3 Turn your neighborhood into a work of art! Tape sheets of paper together and draw your community. Ask, "Tell me about this building you drew. What do people do there?"

4 Read a picture book with your child and talk about the neighborhood in the story. Ask, "Is this city bigger or smaller than our city?"

5 Help your child write and send homemade cards to people in your community, like your child's teacher, friend, or neighbor! Talk and write about why you appreciate them.

6 Let's use our imaginations! Pretend to be the neighborhood firefighter, chef, or dentist. "I'm a chef! My job is to make delicious food."

7 Throughout the day, talk about the sounds you hear in your neighborhood. "I hear a car whizzing by. I hear the neighbors talking and laughing. What do you hear?"

8 As you do laundry, play a game of finding the matching pairs of socks with your baby.

9 When you read together, let your baby help turn the pages—it can help build their interest in books.

10 Cuddle and share a story about your childhood. It's a great way to bond with your baby.

11 Grow your baby's vocabulary by using big words like "humongous" or "gigantic" instead of "big."

12 Turn on your baby's favorite songs and move your bodies as you dance together!

13 Talk with your child in your native language. Speaking together in two or more languages builds your baby's brain.

14 Talk with your child about the weather each day! What do they see in the sky when it is sunny, cloudy, or rainy?

15 Have fun pretending to move and sound like different animals. "Ribbit and hop like a frog" or "chirp and flap your wings like a bird!"

16 Talk about your job or workers you see out and about! What is the construction worker building? How does a firefighter help people?

17 Use colors to express feelings! Encourage your child to scribble or draw a picture using colors to show how he is feeling. Talk together about the colors and feelings.

18 Talk about water on a rainy or snowy day! What does water feel like? Taste like? Sound like?

19 Use words to describe time with your child as you do different activities. Was the walk long or short? Do you like long walks or quick walks?

20 Use your senses to explore the environment around you! What do you see? Hear? Smell

21 Talk about colors and clothing. Say, "I noticed you're wearing a red shirt and blue pants. What colors am I wearing?"

22 Talk about shapes as you eat healthy and yummy snacks! Compare the shape of a square cracker or a round tomato!

23 Spending time drawing and coloring with your child can develop her creative, motor, and language skills! Ask her to draw their favorite food or animal!

24 Practice saying and spelling your child's name with them! Write it out and trace the letters together, or spell out their name in a song!

25 Use mealtime as an opportunity to support your child's early math skills. Ask, "How many crackers are on your plate?" or "Which apple is bigger? Biggest?"

26 Celebrate the things that make your child unique! Create a song with your little one about what makes her special and sing it together.

27 Use stories to spark creativity and imagination. During story time, ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?" Or ask her to tell you a story of her own!

28 Talk about clothing and the weather. "What do we wear when it is cold? Warm?"

29 Talk with your baby about his day! Ask them what he did, how he felt, and what he wants to do tomorrow!

30 Laughing is an important part of learning! Play fun games like "peek-a-boo" or sing funny nursery rhymes.



WONDERFUL WAYS FOR KIDS TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY



DONATE CLOTHES

A great way to teach to your children about charitable giving is from the simple act of donating clothes. Spend some time as a family going through closets and donating clothes you haven't worn in a while.

PLANT A TREE (OR MORE)

We love the idea of supporting the environment, and so will your kids. Spend some time planting a few trees in your backyard or even on their school's grounds (if you get permission).



DONATE UNUSED/UNWANTED TOYS

Another great donation area for kids apart from clothing is in the realm of toys. Just like clothing donations help out those in need and offer a simple way to give back to the community, donating toys will hit a little closer to home for the kiddos.

GIVE BOOKS TO LOCAL HOSPITALS OR DAYCARES

Have your children go through their books and decide which ones they don't think they'll read again. Then you and your children can bring those books to a local hospital or daycare.



START A SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Your kids learn a lot at school, so why not help them teach others by starting a school recycling program. This is a great project to have them do with other kids their age, and it will help them see the power in giving back as a group.

MAKE HANDMADE CARDS

A great way for younger kids to give back to the community as well is to create handmade cards. These cards can come in many forms; have them write thank-you cards for local servicemen or get well soon cards for hospital residents.



LET'S TALK, READ AND SING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY!

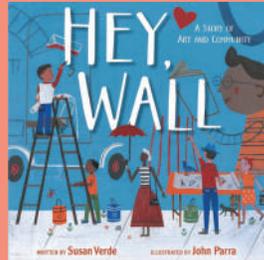
BOOK AND VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

BOOKS

Hey Wall: A Story of Art and Community

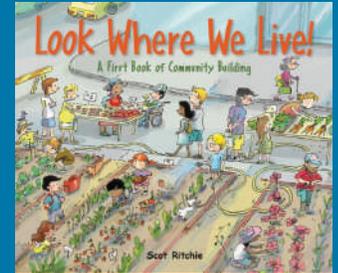
By: Susan Verde

This is the story of Angel, a young boy who organizes his neighbors to transform a bleak wall into a thing of beauty, reflecting the personality and joy of his community.



Look Where We Live!: A First Book of Community Building

By: Scot Ritchie

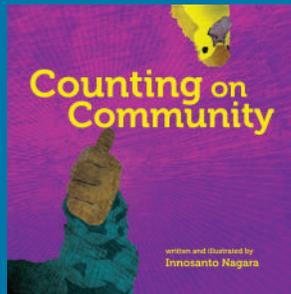


In this non-fiction book, five young friends raise money for their local library. Readers follow the friends as they go to various places and learn lessons on how everyone can contribute to their community.

Counting on Community

By: Innosanto Nagara

Young children will enjoy counting up from one to ten, starting with one pinata and ending with ten hens. Children are encouraged to recognize the value and diversity of their community in this short, rhyming board book. For extra fun, spot the duck on every page!



Thank You Omu!

By: Oge Mora

This is a heartfelt story of a woman named Omu, who makes a delicious stew and shares it with the people in her community. When there is none left for her, a magical thing happens!



Maybe Something Beautiful

By: F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell

Illustrated By: Rafael Lopez

Based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, CA, this book follows young Mira, who shares her art to cheer those in her community and inspires others to do the same.



VIDEO

Learn Through the Senses



Your community is filled with many sights, sounds, textures, and smells! You and your child can use your senses to make observations and talk about the world around you. You can copy the sounds of birds, describe how things feel and smell, and explore your neighborhood using your five senses! Click here to watch this video to discover more ways to learn through the senses and build your baby's vocabulary.

For more tips and information, please visit: www.KalamazooGSC.org