

LESSON PLAN

Theme • My town

The theme's ultimate objective is to enable and facilitate knowledge of the neighbourhood and city environment, through the use of photography, to help the children get to know and explore small corners of their city.

The high goal of this activity is to facilitate knowledge, to work on belonging to an area, to know how to orient oneself in space near and far. A detached eye helps us feel more involved in city life.

Lesson

Plan your city

Lesson focus and goals

- Getting to know the neighborhood where the school is located
- Using photos to remember a moment experienced
- Networking with the local area, through the moments when we go out to take photos, meet people, discover places; thus the walks will be an opportunity to discover our place.

Materials

- Disposable cameras
- Photographs
- Neighborhood map
- Paper
- Glue
- Markers

Activities

Explain the activity, showing the class a map of the neighborhood and a map of the city. Then, plan an assembly with the parents to explain the activity they are going to do, asking them for their collaboration. They will mark on the neighborhood map the exact spot where the school is located and on the city map the neighborhood. Going out, each child with his or her camera exploring around. The teachers will point out places of interest and recreation, inviting children to take in the details, to look at even apparently uninteresting corners with their own eyes. Children will be given time to take photos, pointing out that everything is worthwhile, from the shop sign, to the swing at the park, to the pigeons on the ground, to the manhole covers. Everything is worth it... but not the people.

Repeat the walks three times.

Once the photos have been taken and printed, children will divide them by type (in the park, houses, streets, shops, monuments, etc.). Finally, the children with their teachers will make themed posters, with different backgrounds, to create colorful panels to hang up.

As an activity with the families, the children with their parents will have to take photos of their houses, and then put their own photo on a map of the neighborhood and the city, to identify the location and to define the distance from their school.

The final educational and sharing moment will be a photo exhibition set up on the school premises, inviting all families and the whole school.

Tips for specific types of inclusion/handicaps

- You can deal with children with disabilities who are unable to do the neighborhood outing the same work can be done with the Story Maps app <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/>. This app allows for overcoming difficulties related to motor disabilities or situations where going out into open, crowded environments can put a child in difficulty.

Tips for parenting support

Neighborhood field trips of children between the ages of zero and six sometimes worry families. It may be helpful to specify in the succeeding with parents the route, provide them with the map and detail all the steps of the activity while devoting time and attention to concerns and questions they may bring. It may be a good strategy to give parents the opportunity to accompany the children on one of the 3 field trips. Do not involve families in all the things because it should remain a time of exploration among children.