

# Top Tips to Help your Child be a Brilliant Geographer

- Know your local area - explore it with your children.
- Talk to your child about people, places and environments.
- Encourage them to ask questions.
- Walk to school if possible rather than go by car, touch the outdoor world - keep a record of what you see on the way. Select a different topic each time for example - Day 1 - How many red objects can we see - Day 2 - What different types of vehicles did we observe?
- Play 1 - 10 on the way to school, or on another journey, (1 Street signs, 2 red cars, 3 mums with buggies etc).
- Play I spy on the way to school. What a way to investigate the features of places! A for Archway, B for Bus etc.
- Point out the range of maps that we can use to help us unravel the mystery of places. Be map collectors in places that you visit that give out free maps, shopping centres, country parks, museums etc. Read and explore them with your children.
- Let children plan the route they want to follow to school.
- Let older children investigate route maps and help them to plan the route places that you visit. If you use public transport talk about types of transport - where they might be going.
- Play with your child with their small world layouts - farm sets, train sets, dolls houses etc - talk about the layouts and rooms etc - what belongs where - where the tractors go etc.
- Board games, many of which have a geographical context, with them, Snakes and Ladders - maze games
- Join the library with your child - go regularly - choose exiting books about people and places - sometimes you can meet the author and listen to them tell stories.
- Collect postcards and calendar pictures of places - make a place picture scrapbook.

- Take pictures of the view from your back window once each month at the end of the year can we order them together? How has the view changed through the months/seasons?
- When on holidays, help your child to make holiday diaries - artefacts, drawings, postcards and tickets etc.
- Hunt for different signs, signals and logos while out on shopping trips. What do they mean? - Which shops are they outside of?
- Look at the food items that you are purchasing - note where they come from - look for the countries together in an atlas at home, or on internet maps.
- Look at the labels in clothes items - where are the items made?
- On route talk about the landscapes you travel through. Be car plate and lorry spotters - company and where they come from in the UK or abroad.
- When at relatives such as grandparents go for a short walk - talk about how the area is similar and different to the area that your home is in. Getting your child to begin to observe similarities and differences between places.
- Go for a walk in a local wood or forest - at different times of the year - spring time or autumn (leaf kicking time).
- Seasonality is a very important pattern in their lives.
- Watch the weather forecast - even better listen to different radio channels forecasts. Did they get it right? Watch items on dramatic world weather events.
- Be mini beast or habitat detectives in your back garden.
- Collect stamps or coins from different countries.
- Talk about topic issues highlighted by news programmes such as News Round.