

# September Agenda

## In-school

### Resources Utilized



- Atlas of the World, published by Dorling Kindersley, 1994
- Chicago Transit Authority - CTA maps
- Chicago Visitors' Center - Maps of Chicago
- Rand McNally Road Atlas (optional)
- Grid paper
- Prizes - *Family Millennium Encyclopedia*, published by Dorling Kindersley

### Urban Imagination Network

#### Parent Development School-Based Workshop #1

September 2000

Approximate workshop time: 2 hours

#### Introductions (10 minutes)

Introduce yourself by sharing

- your name
- one thing you are already doing to help build your child's reading skills
- why reading at home is important

#### Core Competency: Map Skills (1 hour)

**Map Making** Why are map skills important?

Maps are interpretations of what people think is important.

**Work in groups to draw a map of what's important in your neighborhood.**

**Include a map key that helps people understand your map**

#### Overview of the parent program for 2000-2001

- Reading Chicago and Bringing it Home
- Focus on core competencies and key values
- Designing activities to teach your children what you've learned
- Expanding vital connections for the family in the city
- Special incentives: Individual Technology Account
- Special opportunity: Technology training on-site

## **ACTIVITY #1: Locating Chicago in its context and history**

Resources: Map of Great Lakes and a key to using the map

Key Idea: Maps make visible the big ideas of geography...

- Places have a location
- Places are connected to other places
- Places have unique characteristics
- Places change over time (and so do maps)

THE MAP GUIDE shows how to use a map .

**How do the following tools help you understand the map?**

- The locator map?
- The reference grid?
- The key box?
- The scale bar?
- The compass point?

**What kinds of information could you use this map to find out about?**

Using the map of the Great Lakes, find out:

- 1) Three ways to tell people where Chicago is. (What lake is it next to? What states is it between? What continent is it on? What part of the U.S. is it in?)
- 2) What other places on the map besides Chicago are industrial centers?
- 3) What is the name of the largest area of fresh water in the world?
- 4) Figure out why Chicago became a stockyard center.

## **Activity #2: Reading different Chicago maps**

Key Idea: Maps are interpretations of what people think is important.

Look at 3 different kinds of Chicago maps : the map in the Rand McNally road atlas, the CTA map and one other map.

- What are common features in every map?
- What features does each map have that make it different from the others?

### **Activity #3: Getting Around Chicago**

Using the Rand McNally map key, locate a point of interest you think would be interesting to take your children in Chicago. Use a sticker to mark the point and to mark your starting point.

Write complete directions you could give your child to explain 2 ways to get from your house to that point of interest using public transportation.

Exchange what you have written with a partner without telling them where the directions lead. Where do they end up? Do they think the directions are clear enough to find their way there.

### **Activity #4: Map Making**

**Working individually, make a map that represents your personal development plan for this year.**

What is the starting point? (skills and values I already have)

What are some of the milestones along the way (things you plan to learn)?

Where is the ending point? (where will what you learn lead you and your family?)

What will you need to get from one place to the next?

**Let's help each other learn! Each of us has different skills. We would like to establish an asset bank each month of parent skills in our school that can be part of an ongoing learning exchange.**

*Do you want to be a Map Mentor?: If you feel your own map skills are strong and you would be willing to help coach others, please sign today's sheet identifying you as a map mentor for other parents. This would mean that another parent who needs help learning or practicing how to use a map could call you for some help to build their skills in this area.*

### **Bringing it Home: Teaching Map Skills to your Children (45 minutes)**

Design an activity to do with your child that will teach them either:

- 1) How to use the CTA
- 2) Map skills

(examples: think about how you might use a puzzle to teach map skills to a young child.....or teach your kids how to use a map to find the city where their favorite sports team is playing this week...or show your kids where different generations of your family have lived and where your family came from when they moved to Chicago)

Think through what resources you will need for the activity and what the key ideas or skills are that you want them to learn

Share your activity with a partner

For group discussion:

What ideas do you want to include in the resource bank from your school (this will be put into an inventory on the computer so everyone can share the ideas)

What would be the value of having these ideas available on the Internet?

Computer connections: Locate some sites you could use as a resource for map making and geography activities:

Examples:

Activities for parents and children

<http://www.worldbook.com>

Great Maps

<http://www.geomatters.com>

Helping Your Child Learn Geography

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Geography>

State and Country Maps

<http://nystromnet.com>

Geography reference site

<http://djmssoftware.com>

Rand McNally website

<http://www.k12.com>

CTA Information and Maps

<http://www.transitchicago.com>