

Housing

Activities related to housing in Chicago included:

- Discussing housing prices and demographics
- Calculating costs of renting versus owning
- Learning about tenants' rights
- Discussing the future of public housing
- Using models to explore how culture and climate affect home design and construction
- Watching a video about how different families in Chicago organize space

We'd also like to share some of your other experiences and resources.....

Take It From Us

#1 this activity will teach: differences in housing prices around the Chicagoland area

resources needed: real estate office or real estate section of the newspaper

skills needed: researching, making comparisons

activity: I had my son visit a real estate office (or read the real estate section in the newspaper) and look at the houses currently on the market. He examined the price for a specific type of house in different neighborhoods in Chicago and in different suburbs. Comparing and contrasting the prices for similar houses located in different areas helped him see that surroundings can play a large role in determining property value.



#2 this activity will teach: how to evaluate the best buy when looking for a home

resources needed: real estate agent or real estate section of the newspaper

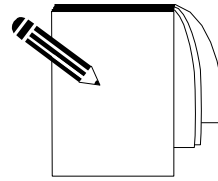
skills needed: researching information, making comparisons

activity: We looked at the list of houses available in neighborhoods we want to live in. My kids



compared the prices and amenities offered for different houses. They had to decide which house was the best to get and show evidence to support their choice, making sure to take into consideration all the things we wanted in a house and our financial means.

hints: Make a list with your child of "have-to-have" qualities and another with "would-like-to-have" qualities.



#3

this activity will teach: how to choose the best place to live

resources needed: newspaper, map

skills needed: making comparisons

activity: Compare housing prices in the different neighborhoods represented on the map. Talk about reasons why prices might be higher or lower in different neighborhoods, such as better schools, abundance of stores, more gang activity, far from public transportation. Children can discuss and figure out where the best place to live is, considering financial situations and safety concerns.

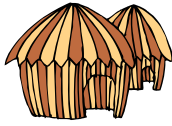


#4 this activity will teach: about different housing environments

resources needed: transportation

activity: We will go and observe the living conditions in Hyde Park (a wealthy neighborhood on the south side of Chicago) noting the various types of buildings, including the baby mansion. We will then visit a realtor in the area and find out the price range of houses in the neighborhood. Also, we would take a trip to a public housing project, observe the living conditions there noting the different types of buildings present and again visiting the rental office to find out about prices. Afterwards, we would go home, discuss our trip, and write about it, describing similarities, differences, and general themes present in both neighborhoods.



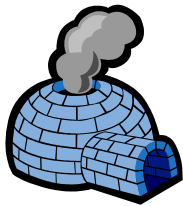


#5 this activity will teach: about the housing of different cultures

resources needed: something that shows different types of houses and who lives in those houses such as a museum exhibit, video, magazine, or newspaper

skills needed: researching

activity: I had my daughter watch a video/visit a museum that described types of housing from different parts of the world and we talked about the people that live in those



houses. Specifically, we discussed what influences the way their houses are built, such as climate, resources available, and the occupation of the residents. I had my

daughter compare the different areas and how the families live. Then we looked at pictures of types of houses not



covered in the video/museum such as you could find in a National Geographic magazine or the

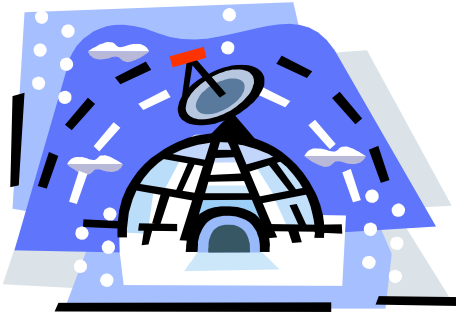


newspaper and I had

her guess where each house might be found and what the people who live there might be like, such as what they do for a living, how large or small

their family is, or what furniture might be in the house.

hints: Make a game of this. You might also try to design the house of your dreams.



#6

this activity
how to

will teach:
evaluate the

services available in your neighborhood

resources needed: a list of services available in your neighborhood

activity: Think about what services you use regularly, including grocery stores, schools, churches, parks, etc. Make a list of all the places that you visit and compare that list to a list of all the services available in your neighborhood. Figure out how many of the services that you use frequently are close enough that you can walk instead of driving a car.

hints: Also figure out if there are places that you can do more than your usual activity, such as setting up a basketball league at your church on Sundays instead of driving to a gym.

#7

this activity will teach: how building surroundings have changed over time

resources needed: a book, newspaper, or magazine with pictures of different homes and buildings

activity: Show your children pictures of a house at different periods in time, having them especially pay attention to what is in the background of the pictures. Ask them to identify differences in the surroundings of the same building over time. Talk about what new things are in more recent pictures and what things disappear from the picture as time progresses.

hints: Use this as a time to discuss environmental issues like the use of fertilizers, gas consumption, sky rocketing prices of fuel, pollution control etc.



Written Materials

Resident Tenant and Landlord Ordinance (Tenant Bill

Of Rights), published by the City of Chicago Clerk's Office

**R
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Chicago Tribune- Real Estate Section
Real Estate booklets

Websites

www.century21.com



People to Talk To

Metropolitan Tenants Organization (773) 292-4980

LUCHA- Latin United Community Housing Association (773) 276-5338

Chicago Rehab Network (312) 663-3936

Spanish Coalition for Housing 6440, (773) 271-

7633

Chicago Bilingual Landlord Association (773) 276-7633

United Neighborhood Organization (312) 432-6301

Lawyers Committee for Better Housing (312) 347-
7600

Realtors

Bankers (loan officers)

Teachers