

Social Studies

Teacher Ideas

<https://www.easternct.edu/center-for-early-childhood-education/reflections-from-the-field/building-community-in-the-preschool-classroom.html>

Civics and Government:

- Use whole group time to talk about the different choices available during center time or independent choice time and use resources like a "teacher cart" to show children options.
- Establish and rotate classroom jobs on a weekly basis. Take pictures of children performing classroom jobs and post on the job chart.
- Connect community helpers to classroom jobs and talk about all the different helpers and their roles.
- Ask children what they would like to see in the dramatic play area. Talk about how voting works and vote on their suggestions.
- Work together to develop classroom expectations. Ask if children have expectations at home. Remind them that each home is unique. Make a poster to display agreed-upon expectations with words and pictures.
- Provide a variety of materials in the dramatic play area that represent different professions, and read books that represent those professions.
- Intentionally make history with children everyday by recalling, representing and creating archives of their daily experiences with a focus on the class as a community.
- Invite families to share stories, hobbies or occupations as well as stories from their culture, language and customs.

Economics:

- Incorporate a bank, grocery store, or post office into dramatic play areas and invite children to make price tags and signs.
- Visit a farmer's market and discuss what ten dollars could buy for the class.
- Organize bake sales or lemonade stands.
- Introduce cash registers and play money, sort coins, look at coins and money from other countries.
- Cook simple recipes. Look at pictures/written recipes and ask children related questions: What do we need for materials? Do we have enough to make this?

Geography:

- Organize field trips to parks, the ocean, orchards and playgrounds.
- Walk outside and then have children utilize different toys and props to recall what they saw.
- Plan and create a classroom garden.
- Regularly refer to various key elements outdoors like the big tree, tunnel, field, garden, etc.
- Explore or create a community map and ask related questions: Can you find our school on the map? Where is the Post Office, the grocery store, etc.?



- Learn about the mail system. Practice sending postcards and writing cards. Ask families to reach out to friends and family around the world who might send mail here. Every couple of days, check the mail and read it and learn where it came from. Find each location on a classroom map and place a star on it.
- Look at laminated pictures of flags from other countries. Have children describe colors, shapes and symbols and work together to create a class flag.

History:

- Use calendars to reflect today, tomorrow, yesterday, special days, vacations and to recall weekend activities.
- Recall bigger events like a sibling being born, getting a pet and moving. Talk about the week's activities and share related photos.
- Introduce a family unit at the beginning of the year with books, artwork, and photos of different kinds of families. Post family photos on a family tree.
- Ask for baby pictures or shared stories from families and ask the children what they can do now that they couldn't do when they were babies. Write down their ideas and have them draw pictures (if they choose) to go along with their dictation.
- Help children recall what they did on a field trip, family outing or over the weekend with pictures or by taking dictation.