Ages: 4-5

A city on paper

35 min · indoors · all year round



Prep:

- A3 sheets taped together into one large sheet - 4
- Wax crayons
- Toy people and cars - 3-5
- Ordinary pencil

Step by step (~35 min):

1. Spread the large sheet on the floor and weigh down the corners with books. Sit on opposite sides.
2. Start with roads: one main street across the whole sheet and two or three side streets. Your child draws the lines.
3. Your child draws four places with the crayons: a home, a shop, a park and a place of their own choosing. Leave empty space between them to build on later.
4. Move a toy person from home to the shop. If the road ends, your child draws another street or a bridge as they go.
5. Try the same route with a car: widen any narrow parts. Name the streets and circle a place for future building.

If it’s not working: If the large map tires your child, keep just three places and one road between them. You can finish the empty part of the sheet another day.

Playing together: A child aged 2-3 places large stickers to mark places; a child aged 4-5 draws roads and moves the character; an older child writes the names and checks that the route connects.

Make it your own: Add a river and bridge, a bus route, a park for animals or a neighbourhood where cars aren't allowed. You can return to the city in a week and watch it grow.

Let’s talk:

- "Where will the person go first?"
- "What is missing near the house?"
- "Why couldn't the car get through here?"

Why try this:

Your child plans a space, tests a route through play and changes the drawing when an obstacle appears. Their idea gradually becomes a map that works.