FAMILY ACTIVITY: DRAWING IDEAL COMMUNITIES

When we talk about community, it doesn’t just have to be where we live. Our community can be where we feel like we belong or where we spend most of our time, like school, a sports team or a community organization. We often live and participate in communities without thinking about what they provide to us or how they could improve. By drawing ideal communities, we can explore these ideas while having discussions with others about the importance of community.

MATERIALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Materials

- Printer paper
- Coloring utensils (like markers, crayons, or colored pencils)
- Old magazines or other print materials (optional)
- Scissors (optional)

Instructions

1. On a piece of paper, brainstorm what community means to you. What communities are you part of? How do you know that you are part of them? What do they give to you and what do you give to them?
2. Create a visual representation of your ideal community, a community that gives your and the people around you everything they need, using coloring utensils and print materials. Think about the resources like food, water, housing, outdoor space and transportation that it would include. Think about the people that would live there.
3. Have a discussion with your family using the questions below.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

1. Where is your community? Why is this your community?
   a. Community can be where you live, where you spend the most time or where you feel like you belong. Communities can include sports teams, community organizations, school, or a specific neighborhood.
2. What does your ideal community provide that your current communities provide? What does your idea community provide that your current community doesn’t provide?
3. How does your idea community compare to the ideal communities of your family and/or friends (look at the visual representations that they created)?
4. How can you give back or support your communities?
5. How can we make sure that all people feel like they belong to at least one community?