

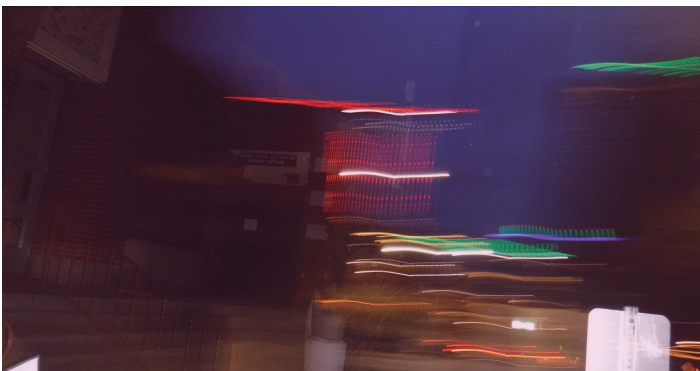
Story Walk



20 - 25
min.

Overview

To explore the meaning of "place," families will explore and document the space wherever your program is held. Whether a library or science center, school or community space, families walk together (indoors or outdoors) and snap photos along the way! They can take pictures from different perspectives and explore details that may otherwise go unnoticed.



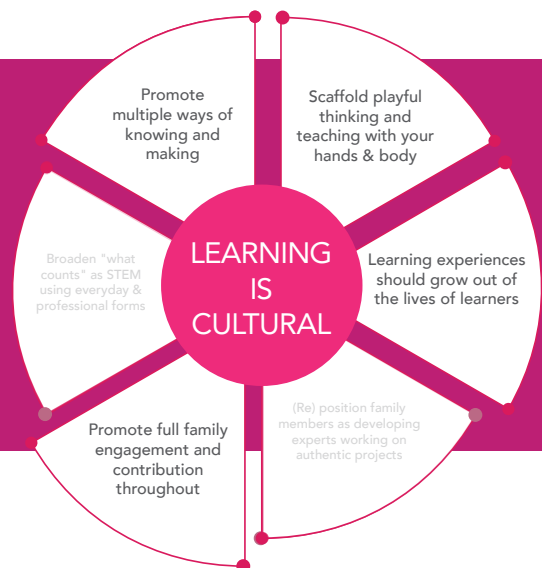
Materials

- *Cameras -1 per family or pair*

Participants can use their phones or devices, or you may provide point-and-shoot digital cameras if available

This activity:

- Embraces many ways of knowing & making, such as through storytelling, visual literacy, and observation
- Encourages reflection on the meaning of "place"
- Challenges families to view their surroundings in new or playful ways
- Eases everyone into creating with familiar materials
- Welcomes agency, collaboration and reflection



Family Sketch

One participant, a nine-year-old boy, made the mission of his story walk to collect photos about things that were "useful," like the water fountain and some storage cubbies in the room. He redefined this activity to fit his interests (entirely unprompted) and shared with other participants about why he thought each item was useful!

Step-by-step

- 1 Share that we'll be going on a short walk to take some photos of the surroundings.
- 2 Explain that families can use their phones to take photos if they prefer, or they can use digital cameras if available. Make sure everyone knows how to take pictures with their devices. Encourage that they trade off taking photos and walk in pairs or as a family (rather than everyone taking their own photos by themselves).
- 3 Ask that they take 10 minutes and go where they want to within the space, outside or inside, to take photos of things they find special, beautiful, weird, or interesting. They can take photos from different perspectives: as a tiny mouse, as a tall giraffe, sideways, close-up, in-motion, etc.
- 4 Call everyone back after 10 minutes, and invite families to partner with another family to share their photos and talk about the reasons why they took them. Here are some prompts:
 - What did you see, smell, and hear on your walk?
 - How did you feel?
 - Why did you choose to take these photos?
 - Did you notice anything about this place that you didn't notice before?

What worked for us

This is a fun way for families to create with everyday technology, and also provides an opportunity for movement!

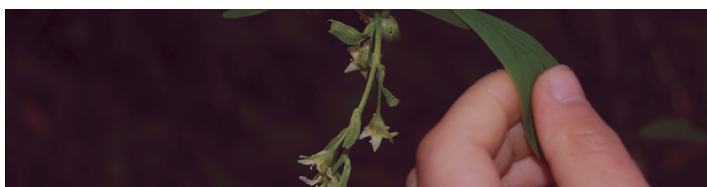
We cherished the family reflections about their photos because it strengthened the central themes of our family projects: the meaning of place & storytelling.

We loved that participants of (almost) all ages could take part in the story walk.

We valued all responses and approaches, as there is no "right" way to do this activity.

More tools like these available on [techtales.online](https://www.techtales.online) 
Robotics Backpacks for Family Learning | NSF DRL - 1516562

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Other ideas

How can this activity fit into your setting?

This is an excellent icebreaker and movement activity for any program, and the prompts can change to whatever you want families to reflect upon, such as:

- Take photos that are related to STEM
- Take photos to tell a story

The reflection questions are also adaptable depending on your program themes, but remember to include the reflection piece because it is critical.