

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Creating community connections

Providing access to your local area strengthens children's connections and sense of belonging.

Developing positive relationships within your community can be done in a range of ways – see our top tips below for ideas.



- Take children for regular walks in your community. Include shops, markets, parks and green spaces
- Make links with local businesses, e.g. market stall holders or independent shops, and take children to buy supplies from them
- Build relationships with local professionals, such as police, dentist and fire services, and encourage children to talk to them about what they do. Invite them into your setting to talk to children and plan visits to their place of work
- Contact your local allotment society and discuss opportunities for children to have a small growing space or visit and help out allotment members with gardening and harvesting tasks
- Contact local feeder schools and discuss opportunities for building links, such as visits, sharing facilities or inviting reception teachers into the setting to get to know the children, prior to starting school
- Contact a local retirement or care home and arrange intergenerational visits between residents and children
- Arrange visits to your local library to look for storybooks to take back to the setting. Attend their story telling sessions and invite parents along too
- Get involved in community projects e.g. sponsored walks, litter picking, recycling projects, donations for specific events such as foodbanks or donating coats, toys and clothes. Take children to deliver their donations to community services where possible.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- [#FirstFiveYearsCount](#) - sign up to increase your understanding of the importance of early childhood education in the community and to boost the positive feedback you receive from your local community.

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna