Activity Kit

Bring people together for exploration, community-building, and fun. All while experiencing the power of play.
Why mapping is critical

KaBOOM! envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. To achieve this vision, it is imperative to know the location of each place to play in the United States. By adding a playspace, such as a park, playground or sports field to the KaBOOM! Map of Play, you will be helping others find great places to play, while helping KaBOOM! bring play to children who need it most.

What can you do?

Grab your smartphone, head out to your local park or playground, and start mapping using our mobile website mapofplay.org. You can search the map from your location and either add photos and ratings to places already in the database, or add new records if you spot one missing. On the road? Map playgrounds and parks wherever you are. Don’t have a smartphone? Bring the photos and data home with you to enter into the Map of Play website from your home computer.

Bring your friends!

If you want to get a group involved—perhaps your local parenting group, running club, advocacy group, or office—keep reading for fun mapping activities that involve community service, team building, and more.
The following activities are a great way to bring people together for fun, exploration, and community-building. All while experiencing the power of play!

### Scavenger Hunt
Organize a scavenger hunt that gets participants out into the community and mapping playspaces—they can explore their neighborhood parks and playgrounds, capture data, and have fun in the process.

1. **Choose Your Leaders**—Decide who will make decisions and lead meetings. Not sure who to choose? Notice who is most excited when you talk about the scavenger hunt and choose people who work well together.

2. **Plan Ahead**—Put together an informal meeting to discuss details. Choose a date that gives you at least a month to plan. Weekends work best, and the event should run 4–6 hours. Start somewhere easy to find and end in a spot that encourages mingling. Hold an after party barbecue or picnic.

3. **Nail Down Details**—As a committee, work out the details of the event. Will clues be written or images? How will they be distributed? Will teams be assigned or participant-chosen? How will winners be selected and verified? Will there be a prize? Try to set up clues that have participants follow a clear path, leading them from the kick-off point to the after party location.

4. **Make Your Clues**—Create lists, photos, or other clues that lead participants to playspaces they might not be familiar with. Have teams collect images to document their findings. Aim for a good mix of easy to spot items (a big red slide) and sneaker picks (a unique piece of play equipment, a special sign, etc.). Include park names and addresses to help teams find their way.

5. **Map Away!**—Make sure each team maps the playgrounds or parks they visit using our mobile Map of Play at [mapofplay.org](http://mapofplay.org). You can keep track of usernames to help keep score.

6. **Regroup**—Invite bands to provide live music, enlist restaurants to donate food or do tastings, and give participants a chance to enjoy some wind-down time.
Team Building Through Mapping

Organize a team-building event that encourages co-workers to get to know each other in a low-pressure environment while adding data to the Map of Play. This activity works well as part of a staff retreat, routine team-building exercise, or annual event.

1. Assign Teams—Work with your human resources department or management to assign teams. Try to group people who don’t get the chance to work together, and look for combinations that maximize everyone’s talents. Choose leaders who will be comfortable speaking for everyone. Make sure every team has access to a smartphone and at least one person who is familiar with the area.

2. Competitive Spirit—Make the event fun, but make it a competition, too. Award prizes to the teams that map the most playspaces with secondary prizes for creativity, speed or wearing the silliest costumes.

3. Plan Your Route—Plan the places you’ll be mapping. Even if a playspace is already in the Map of Play, adding a photo or rating counts toward points.

4. Prepare—Provide teams with printed instructions on how to use the Map of Play and either a map of the route or printed directions.

5. Go Map!—Immediately before heading out to map, energize participants by explaining the importance of play and emphasize the valuable contribution they are about to make by adding data to the Map of Play.

6. Final Thoughts—Give your teams a chance to talk about what they saw. Are there a lot of unmapped playspaces? Are the spaces really being used? Are they in good shape? What did you see that surprised you?

7. Keep It Going—Provide each team with lunch money and encourage them to go out as a team to continue socializing. The more time they have together, the better chance they will enjoy a solid working relationship moving forward.
Parks and Playgrounds Geocaching

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunt in which participants use their smartphone to try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches. Each container holds a clue and a small collectible. By placing your geocaches at a park or playground, players can earn points by entering the playground information into the Map of Play.

1. Tell a Story—To make the event engaging, make it about more than just coordinates on a map. Use geocaches to offer clues, puzzles, or challenges that teams photograph. Include physical challenges that use the space and ask to collect local trivia for an after-event quiz. Fill each geocache with a fact about the importance of play.

2. Get Organized—Designate someone to lead the event, finalize details, and make decisions. Choose a date at least a month in advance, and aim for a time when most participants will have several hours available. If you are placing geocaches on someone's property, make sure to get permission. Plan for a single day or short-term event with geocaches that are easy to collect and remove afterward.

3. Choose Your Coordinates—Using a map of local playspaces, or just driving around to find them, plan out what parks and playgrounds the teams will visit. List the coordinates in order, beginning from a centralized starting point and ending at a meeting place large enough for the whole group to gather. Make sure the list designates the size of each geocache so teams know what to look for. Choose places that are off the beaten path so the geocaches aren't accidentally removed by curious non-participants. (Generally speaking, national parks are off limits, so make sure to get permission.)

4. Create Your Geocache—Using everything from film canisters to big plastic containers, create a geocache for each set of coordinates. Include something extra, for example, a significant fact tying the space to the area's history or a physical challenge that requires using the playspace. Be sure to include a clue that leads teams to the next geocache.

5. Create a Point System—Add in a little friendly competition and encourage teams to map playspaces by devising a point system based on data entered into the Map of Play. If the playspace is already entered into the Map of Play, each team can add photos, comments or ratings. You can keep track of usernames to help keep score.

6. Select Your Teams—Decide whether teams will be set by organizers or chosen by the participants. Make sure every team has access to a smartphone, the coordinates, and printed directions on how to use the mobile Map of Play.

7. Go Map!—When the day of the event arrives, teams will head outdoors to hunt for geocaches, map playgrounds, and have fun working together.
INNOCATIVE IDEAS

Incorporate play into everything you do and turn your favorite hobbies into an opportunity to support your community.

Links for Inspiration

**Hold a Photo Shoot**—Bring your kids to the playground and capture their joy on film.

**Challenge Your Friends**—Make a game of mapping and see who can map the most playspaces in a day, a weekend, or a month.

**Milestone Markers**—Use your play time to document a child’s developmental milestones. Could he climb that ladder last year? Did she brave the slide a month ago?

**Explore the Unexpected**—Challenge yourself to map out less conventional playspaces in your area, or make it a road trip. Visit spots with special features, a particular attraction, or something out of the ordinary.

**Have a Play Day**—Plan to include special activities at each park you visit, making the trip a super fun play day.

**Teach a Lesson**—Use mapping as an object lesson in city planning, geometry, and accessibility awareness for children or adults.