

Mathematical moments with 4 & 5 year olds

Spatial reasoning: reading and creating maps of routes, translating between 2D and 3D



The cartographers



The reception children had become interested in maps. They went on a walk near the school, noting and photographing landmarks they passed on the way. Their teacher, James, produced a simple map with the photos: with support, the children followed the map. On return, the children began to become interested in exploring map-making as part of their small world play, developing roadways, routes and plans for buildings, using their prior experiences. James then produced a more challenging map, with crossings and turnings, for children to read and follow in pairs, accompanied by an adult. Later children drew maps of their routes from home to school, as cartographers.





I come in my Dad's van. There is a zebra crossing.



I come out of my house and then I have to turn left. I go down the street and past these trees... There are some traffic lights too.

See the Nrich website for more about this [Mapping activity](#), the resulting work of the class and the [children's thinking](#).

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