



How to Develop Strong Communities

Communities have huge influence in families' lives. Just as plants thrive in a garden, families thrive in nurturing communities. Features of a nurturing community include a safe place for children to play, availability of food, shelter, medical care, and a culture that encourages neighbors to get to know each other.

- **What you can do** – Meet and greet your neighbors, Go to a parent meeting at your child's school, Participate in an activity at your local library or family resource center
- **Small steps** – Set up a play group in your community at homes or local parks (consider inviting people who may not have children at home too, like local seniors), Organize a community babysitting co-op, Volunteer at your child's school, Encourage local service providers to produce a directory of available services that are easy to find in the community
- **Big steps** – Organize a community event (block party, parent support group), Run for an office in the parent organization at your child's school, Attend local government meetings (city council or school board meetings) and let them know how important resources are in your community, how parks, strong schools, and accessible services help strengthen your family and other families

