Creating a map is an opportunity to build spatial skills. First, think about what you could map out. Where is the cat’s favorite spot in the house? Where do you keep the ingredients for your favorite dinner? Once you have an idea, work together to create a map.

Try finding something to build a tower with in each room of your home. Make sure it’s safe! The towers may be big, small, straight or wobbly. What about pillows in the bedroom? Toilet paper rolls in the bathroom? Plastic cups in the kitchen?

Building a road is a fun way to develop spatial skills. On a sunny day, look for an open area of pavement at home or in the park. Then, use chalk to map out a road. Where does it go? What stops are along the way? Can you draw those too?

How do you create a meal in your home? Does dinner always include a vegetable? What about a starch or a protein? Talk about the categories of food you typically eat at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. How are they different? How are they the same?

Research suggests that children explore math-related concepts about half of the time when they play. Next time your child is playing, do you notice them exploring themes like size, or categories? How might you join their play and help them to build those skills playfully?