



Supporting Civic Engagement at Home Suggestions for K-5 Parents and Caregivers

History and Social Studies Department

Elementary students are learning to be critical thinkers, positive community members, thoughtful leaders, communicators of original ideas, and strong advocates for justice in the classroom and beyond.

To support civic engagement with your child, we suggest:

- Share stories that grow your child's perspective on themselves, others, and our global world. Select texts that provide ["windows" and "mirrors"](#) for your child. "Mirrors" are stories that share experiences that are similar to your child's, and "windows" are stories where children learn about people who have different experiences.
- Talk with your child about the community where you live.
 - What does your family have in common with other Cambridge families?
 - What makes your child unique?
 - What makes your family unique?
- Talk a walk around your neighborhood and explore its history with your child. Here are some useful resources:
 - [Cambridge Black History Walking Tour](#)
 - [Cambridge Historical Society Self-Guided Walking Tours](#)
 - [Tufts African American Trail Project](#)
- Use these vocabulary words: justice, injustice, rights, responsibilities, perspective, point of view, advocate
- Ask questions that help your child identify their point of view and other perspectives:
 - Why might this topic matter to me?
 - Why might it matter to people around me (family, friends, city, nation)?
 - Why might it matter to the world?
- Engage in a mini community action project in your home or community, such as neighborhood clean-up, food pantry drive, fundraisers, volunteering, etc.
- Talk to your child about ways that you and your child can advocate for your community and stand up for justice:
 - Voting: *bring your child to the polls when you vote!*
 - Participating in School Committee and City Council meetings
 - Writing to government representatives
 - Campaigning for a specific cause or candidate

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