

## Family Field Trip\*

Most kids take field trips with their class at school. You can also take a family field trip! Is there some place in your community *you'd like to see with your children?* Perhaps it is a museum or historic spot, a state or national park, a mountain peak or nature preserve, a railway station, an old church or cemetery, or a special farm.

Visiting such places with children *builds knowledge* of their culture and community.

### Here are suggestions:

- 1) Plan ahead with your children. Have them find out some of the details: What's a good day to go? When is the place open? Is there an admission charge? Do you know how to get there? Will you need to take food and water? Do you need to dress in any special way?
- 2) Talk about it in advance: What do you already know about it? What can you find out before you go from the newspaper, a website, neighbors who have been there, and from brochures or ads. Ask your children: What do you think we'll see? What will we learn? Talk about your field trip with enthusiasm. Half the fun of an adventure is looking forward to it!
- 3) When you take the field trip, keep up your *enthusiasm*. Ask your kids to say what they are noticing. Share what each of you observe. Are they are seeing and doing what they expected? While on your field trip, you can
  - take pictures
  - collect leaves or rocks (if that's allowed) or other souvenirs
  - make notes or do a drawing
- 4) When you're back home, talk about what you did and listen to what the children say. Ask: Would you want to go there again? What did you like best? What did you find out that you didn't know? Put your notes in the **Our Adventures** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



"I remember when we used to go on "field trips" with my family when I was a kid. One of the best things was my dad's enthusiasm. Because he thought something was wonderful, I did, too. He taught me the world was full of wonders and how to spot them."

— *Grandma Anna*

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\*Family Field Trip supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to research and concept development,  
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