

What can we do together?



These are just a few suggestions of ways to spend quality time with a refugee family/. Most of them are free and focus on giving new refugees the skills and knowledge they need to live in the U.S. Some are just aimed at having fun!

No matter what the activity, remember to focus on **empowering** the refugees to do it by themselves. Our ultimate goal is to help them thrive in American society and be comfortable in their new country. Just remember, any time together is an opportunity for them to learn!

- Visit the farmer's market
- Walk together to the park, library, grocery store, thrift store, etc.
- Teach them how to cook a popular American dish.
- Ask them to teach you how to cook a traditional dish from their culture.
- Help introduce the family to their neighbors.
- Demonstrate developmentally-appropriate ways for interacting with children.
- Show the parents how they can teach kids the alphabet, numbers, or how to write their name. Many parents who don't speak English will still know the alphabet.
- Practice writing checks.
- Visit the zoo.
- Check out Omaha.com for local, free family events.
- Take the family to walk around the Old Market.
- Visit famous Omaha landmarks.
- Help teach the major streets in the city.
- Practice using the bus to visit friends and family.

- Ask them to teach you a few words or phrases in their language.
- Go fishing.

What can we do together? (continued)

- Bring over a card game or board game.
- Help them plant vegetables or herbs if they have a balcony.
- Practice naming and counting money
- Teach the rules of the road (and if you're brave, practice driving once they have a learner's permit!)
- Help read the mail
- Facilitate parent-teacher conferences.
- Attend the family's religious services
- Take them to a local sporting event (especially soccer or volleyball!)
- Play sports with the family
- Take pictures of them and give them copies
- Take them to use their food stamps at the ethnic grocery store, since it is often far.
- Help them review their ESL lessons.
- Help kids with homework.
- Take parents to special events at their children's school.
- Go to the children's museum.

- Practice naming objects in English.
- Practice writing names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- Slowly introduce simple American/convenience foods (such as pudding, mac & cheese, jello salad, rice krispie bars, etc). Go shopping together for the ingredients.
- Help them learn how to celebrate American holidays.
- Introduce them to your friends that may be interested in volunteering/
- Practice writing and sending letters. Walk to the post office together.
- Practice using the washer and dryer.