

Shared Activities

for Cultural Navigators & Families



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THE ★AMERICAN PLACE

500 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Breaking the Ice Activity Worksheet:

Suggestions for Initial Cultural Navigator/ Family Meetings

Take a look at the suggested activity column and then turn to a fellow participant to discuss a couple of the activities and what purpose(s) they serve. Then come up with two other ideas to add to the list.

Suggested Activity	Get to know each other	Goal-related	Just for fun!	Sharing across cultures
Take a tour of the library and review the TAP resources together				
Share descriptions of one another's first jobs				
Converse about each other's countries and customs regarding family and friends				
Look at Hartford's <i>Neighborhoods & Treasures</i> booklet to pick out favorite places to visit				
Visit the Career Center at HPL and find basic handouts on job interview skills; plan to visit them later				
Borrow the book, <i>101 American Customs</i> and share similarities				
Sit together in TAP's computer lab to share information from websites highlighting your family's country/culture				

What types of activities will the family and I get involved in at the Library?



A number of onsite multicultural and educational events are scheduled daily,

A range of resources are available that you and parents may co-access to help families better navigate barriers they might be encountering in an aspect(s) of daily living as illustrated here:

**As the relationship strengthens, Cultural Navigators and families may wish to attend a concert at Bushnell Park, take a tour of a nearby campus, visit the Old State House or explore a local food market.*

Task 1

Visit the Hartford Public Library



Activity Purpose:

Get familiar with the local public library and its range.

Activity Description:

After completing a library card application and receiving your new card, explore the library and select a section of the library that interests you.

Estimated Time:

1-2 hours

Cost:

Free

Materials Needed:

- A library card application
- Photo identification with proof of address (driver's license, state identification card)

Activity Extension (time permitting):

- Sign up to use a computer.
- Sign up to use a study room.

Share Your Experience:

- Take a few minutes to write a few sentences about today's library experience.
- Include photographs of your experience.

Location:

500 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 695-6300
www.hplct.org

Hours of Operation:

Mon- Thurs: 10– 8 pm
Fri & Sat: 10 -5 pm
Sun: 1- 5 pm



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Task 2

Visit Hartford's City Hall



Activity Purpose:

Learn about municipal services and how to access them.

Activity Description:

- Take a tour of the building.
- Visit the office of your district's councilman.
- Collect printed materials about the city of Hartford.

Estimated Time:

1 hour

Cost:

Free

Activity Extension (time permitting):

Take a walk to see Alexander Calder's sculpture, *Stegosaurus*, located in the small park next to City Hall.

Share your Experience:

- Take a few minutes to write a few sentences about today's city hall tour.
- Include photographs of your tour.

Location:

550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 543-8602
www.hartford.gov

Hours of Operation:

Mon- Fri: 8:15 – 4:15 pm
Closed Sat & Sun

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Task 3

Visit the Wadsworth Atheneum Art Museum



Activity Purpose:

Explore the museum to discover works of art by famous artists from around the world.

Activity Description:

Go online and look at the museum website.

Estimated Time:

1-2 hours

Cost:

The Hartford Public Library offers free museum passes at the Circulation Desk, main floor.

Activity Extension (time permitting):

- Visit the museum's café and share your impressions of the museum.
- What was your favorite piece of art or exhibit? Why?

Share your Experience:

- Take a few minutes to write a few sentences about today's museum experience.
- Include photographs of your experience.

Location:

600 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 278-2670

www.thewadsworth.org

Hours of Operation:

Wed- Fri: 11-5 pm
Sat & Sun: 10-5 pm
First Thurs: 11 – 8 pm



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Task 4

Visit a Place that Celebrates Your Newcomer Family's Culture



Activity Purpose:

Establish a cultural connection in your community.

Activity Description:

With your cultural navigator, organize a field trip to a place that celebrates cultures: for example, your consulate, a local festival, or cultural center.

Estimated Time:

1-2 hours

Cost:

Costs may vary, depending on event

Activity Extension (time permitting):

Discuss different cultural traditions with your CN.

Share Your Experience:

- Take a few minutes to write a few sentences about today's cultural experience.
- Include photographs of your experience.

A Place to Start:

Charter Oak Cultural Center
21 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 249-1207
www.charteroakcenter.org

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Task 5

Visit a Parent-Teacher Organization Meeting at Your Child's School



Activity Purpose:

To connect newcomer parents with activities and issues concerning their child's school

Activity Description:

- Contact your child's school to find out when the next PTO meeting is.
- Identify the president of the PTO.
- Talk about the meeting agenda with your cultural broker.

Estimated Time:

1-2 hours

Cost:

Free

Materials Needed:

- Location, date, and time of the PTO meeting
- Paper and pencil to take notes

Activity Extension (time permitting):

Ask one question related to your child's needs.

Share Your Experience:

- Take a few minutes to write a few sentences about today's PTO meeting experience.
- Include some photographs of your child's school.

Contact:

Hartford Schools PTO

(860) 695-8000

<http://www.hartfordschools.org/for-parents/pto.php>

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Task 6

Visit the State Capitol Building



Activity Purpose:

Become familiar with the Connecticut state government and historical events

Activity Description:

- Take a tour of the Capitol building
- Get a brochure of the Capitol building
- Find one historical statue or monument

Estimated Time:

1-2 hours

Cost:

Free one-hour tours of the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building

Activity Extension (time permitting):

- If it's a nice day, stop by Bushnell Park
- Visit the Civil War Memorial Arch and the carousel

Memories to Share:

- Take a photo of a room or a statue that you like.
- Talk about something that you remember about the history of Hartford.

Location:

210 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-0222

www.cga.ct.gov/capitol tours

Hours of Operation:

Tours: Monday- Friday
10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15 pm