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Preschool Theme Kits

MY COMMUNITY



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Shirley Hughes

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Preschool to the Rescue
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ADULT RESOURCE

Making Make-Believe
MaryAnn Kohl

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS -
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

Welcome to *My Community* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

Related Activities

FOR YOU: a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

-Fun and Games-

COMMUNITY HELPERS FUN *

Use the community helpers toy included in this kit to talk about what people do in your neighborhood. Let children use them for independent imaginative play. They can also be used with the *Community Worker Song* and *Helpers* fingerplay, found on the next page.

DRAMATIC PLAY *

One developmental task of preschool children is to "make sense" of the world they live in. Dramatic play ("let's pretend") is an essential part of that task. With just a few simple props, children can play at different jobs. For example, toy cars, wagons, bikes, tools, water, squirt bottles and rags can turn your yard into a gas station for filling up cars, washing windows, checking oil, etc. Chairs, papers, pencils and books can become a classroom with students and teacher. Stuffed animals, boxes, rakes, shovels, and empty plastic containers can become a budding zookeeper's dream! Playdough (scented with cinnamon), cookie cutters, rolling pins and pans become a bakery. Be creative and encouraging as children play.

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POST OFFICE *

After you read *Will Goes to the Post Office*, help children learn more about our mail delivery system. Have each child draw their own picture, stuff it in an envelope and with the help of an adult, write their address. Let the children stamp their own letters. Walk to your mail box to send off their letters to themselves. You can use this opportunity to talk about why we need stamps and other things about our mailing system. Send home notes to parents asking them to take their children with them as they check their mailboxes daily. The children might even get a chance to meet their mail carrier in person!



JOB COLLAGE *

Using old magazines and catalogs have the children cut out pictures of people doing the kinds of jobs they think they would like to do when they grow up. Glue the pictures onto a piece of construction paper.

COMMUNITY WORKER SONG *

(to tune of Farmer in the Dell)

The fire fighters are brave.
The fire fighters are brave.
Heigh-ho what do you know
The fire fighters are brave.

The bakers bake our bread...
The doctors keep us well...
The teachers help us learn...
The librarians find us books...
Continue verses, taking suggestions from the children.

FIELD TRIPS

There are so many possibilities for places to take the children, in your community: fire station, police station, veterinarian's office, grocery store or bakery, dentist's office, post office, greenhouse or park, and library. Call and ask about making a visit.

It does take special work to coordinate additional adult supervision, and transportation or walking to your destination.

Alternative: invite someone to your school/daycare to show and tell what they do: policeman or policewoman, dentist, farmer, locksmith, vet, etc. Parents can also share about their occupations.

MAKING MAKE-BELIEVE : Fun Props, Costumes and Creative Play Ideas

Chapter 6 "The Let's Play Corner" (P. 135-159) has complete suggestions for 14 occupations and community places! These include "lets play" artist, school, theater, carpenter, bank, scientist, florist, astronaut and veterinarian. Supplies and materials are easily available for these activities.

My Community Theme Kit

Questions or Suggestions:
Call the Youth Services Dept.
at (360) 384-3150

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

THE FIREMEN

Whole body, suit actions to words.

Clang, clang, goes the fire truck,
When it is racing all about.
The firefighters work very hard
To put the fire out.
With their hoses and their ladders
They answer every call.
When firefighters fight the fires,
They really help us all.

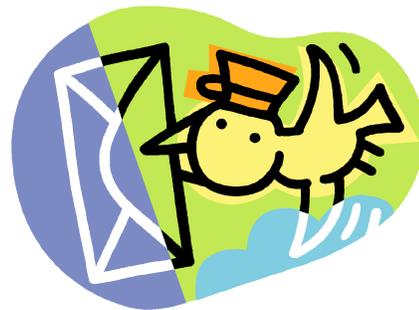
TEN LITTLE FIREFIGHTERS

Traditional

Ten little firefighters,
sleeping in a row
Ding dong goes the bell and down the
pole they go!
Off on the engine oh, oh, oh
Using the fire hose so, so, so.
When the fire's out, home so slow.
Back to bed, all in a row.

THE CARPENTER

This is the way s/he saws the wood
Sawing, sawing, sawing.
This is the way s/he nails a nail
Pounding, pounding, pounding.
This is the way s/he paints the house,
Painting, painting, painting.



HELPERS *

As a fingerplay hold up fingers one at a time, or use with puppets.

This helper builds our houses.
This helper brings our mail.
This helper teaches the children.
And this one has groceries to sell.
And this little helper, yes, it's me.
When I grow up, what will I be?

Use this as opening for discussion with your children.



*Hold fists out, fingers curled for sleeping firefighters
Pull bell cord, lower one closed fist after another
Steer engine with hands
Hold 'fire hose,' direct 'nozzle'
Steer engine with hands
Hold fists out, curled fingers 'sleeping.'*

*Saw arm back and forth, pretending to hold a saw
Holding "hammer", make pounding motion
Right hand "paints" left palm*

MAIL

Hold up fingers of one hand, bend down one at a time.

Five little letters lying on a tray.
Mommy came in and took one away.
Daddy said, "This big one is for me."
I counted them twice, now there were three.
Brother Bill asked, "Did I get any mail?"
He found one and said "a letter from Gail!"
My sister took the next to last
And ran upstairs to open fast.
As I can't read, I can't see
Who the last one's for, but I hope it's me!

Extension: Make letters, put in envelopes and act out the rhyme.

How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.