



# Introduction

A neighborhood is made up of people who live and/or work together. If you were to look up the word *neighborhood* in the dictionary, you would find it defined as a place or people living near one another. Another similar word is *community*, which suggests thoughts of common interests and sharing. *All Around the Neighborhood* blends these two similar ideas into one resource. Children are invited to explore community places that are located in their school's neighborhood as well as places that may not be nearby. For example, your class may decide to learn about the grocery store, doctor's office, fire station, and recycling center. They will get to know people who work in these places, such as a grocer, nurse, firefighter, and sanitation worker.

Whether your neighborhood is rural, urban, or suburban, and whether you are connected to several neighborhoods or just one, there is something for everyone to enjoy while learning about neighborhoods and the people who work and live there.

So, who are the people in your neighborhood? *All Around the Neighborhood* explores many different business and public service facilities with diverse cross-curricular activities, such as writing books for the library, counting teeth at the dentist's office, testing gravity and friction at the park, and building a road in the construction zone. Begin your investigation by finding out which featured places can be found in your school's neighborhood. Next, talk about where children live and how they are important members of the neighborhood, too. Finally, continue the lessons by sharing more in-depth information and exploring the featured places with your class.

You will also find in this resource book the following:

- \* **Community Connections**—Ideas for taking children on excursions and inviting visitors to the classroom
- \* **Resources**—Suggested book titles to read aloud during group time and other interesting information about each theme
- \* **Kindergarten Corner**—Ideas that expand children's knowledge and challenge their thinking skills

## How to Use This Book \*

Whether you're partial to firefighters or school lunch ladies, *All Around the Neighborhood* is a great resource for learning about neighborhood communities. Before taking off on "walking field trips" with the class, decide which places you would like the children to learn more about. Make a large, simple map on colorful craft paper by following the directions provided on the next page. When it is time to introduce the lesson, ask children to gather around you and look at the prepared map. Then, "walk" with your fingertips from the school to the featured building. Talk about the new theme, such as learning about the fire station, to find out what children already know about the topic. Each of the featured topics offers read-aloud book titles to introduce new vocabulary words and information as well as many fun activities for children to complete. Suggestions are also provided for setting up the dramatic play center—an important tool to help children process what they have been learning about their immediate world.

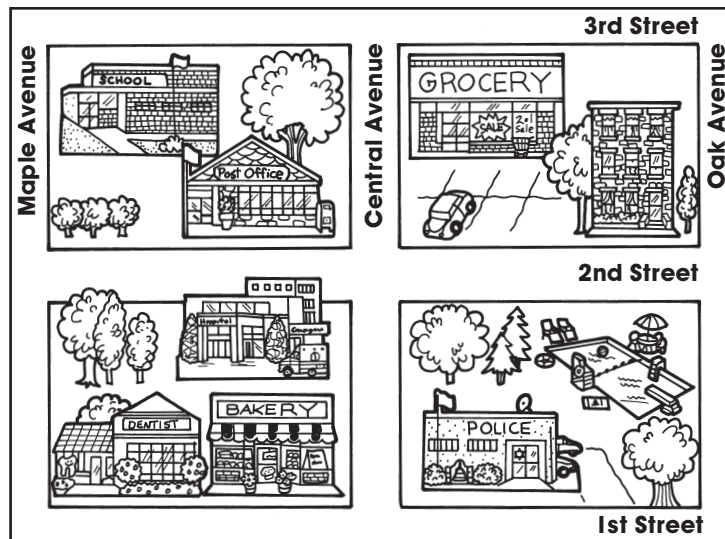
In addition to the fun ideas in this book, you will want to use your community resources to bring the activities to life. Plan excursions, invite visitors, and borrow tools, uniforms, and equipment, if possible, from community workers who live in your neighborhood. How to use these resources effectively is discussed further on page 6. There is so much to discover about people and places in your neighborhood—be sure also to draw from the curiosity of your children as you plan your lessons!



# General Suggestions

## Making a Map for “Walking Field Trips”

To highlight various points of interest in the neighborhood, make a map to show the locations of these sites. Decide which places the children will learn about and then make copies of the buildings and places that are provided on pages 8–15. (You may wish to create a map that corresponds to your school’s neighborhood and can be used for the activity on page 30.) Color the drawings as desired before cutting them out. Attach a large sheet of craft paper to a bulletin board. Draw lines to represent streets and label them. To finish the map of the neighborhood, glue or tape the buildings in place.



## Creating Your Own Community

Children may enjoy making their own charming little neighborhood. To create this community, draw roads or streets with a broad-tipped marker on a large sheet of craft paper that has been taped to the floor. Stuff brown paper lunch bags with newspaper and staple the top edges together to close them. Copy the buildings on pages 10–15 and the vehicles provided in each thematic section onto card stock. Color the drawings as desired. Cut out and glue each building (e.g., library, post office, etc.) to a stuffed paper bag. To hold the vehicles upright, attach them to water bottles (see page 166). The children may be interested in drawing and coloring people on card stock to create a bustling neighborhood. If the paper people are cut out and attached to paper-towel cardboard tubes, they can be moved about the imaginary neighborhood. Invite children to arrange the buildings, people, and vehicles throughout the community. This special neighborhood wouldn’t be complete without a name; children can use card stock to create a sign to welcome visitors to their imaginary community as well as construct trees, fire hydrants, and so on. This project will be ongoing for some time as children discover new things to add!

