

Unit Name: Neighborhoods/Construction

What are we doing? Exploring what buildings in our neighborhood look like.

Purpose/Why?

- Learning about spatial relationships and shapes
- Exploring and comparing building materials
- Exploring architecture

Materials

You will need to provide: paper and writing materials

Books:

- “Not a Box” by Antoinette Portis
- “Construction” by Sally Sutton
- “Build, Dogs, Build” by James Horvath



Quick Start

- As you walk around your home or classroom, help your child find shapes in the building. An example might be, “See that window, it is a rectangle!”
- Discuss what materials were used to build the building (wood, brick, glass etc....)
- Have the children use the writing materials to draw shapes that the children see.
- Count how many windows, doors, etc....

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Deeper Dive

- Take a walk around your neighborhood and notice similarities and differences in the different buildings.
- Have your child identify house numbers.
- Discuss what the buildings in your neighborhood are used for.
- Discuss different building materials.
- Look online and find videos on how bricks, lumber, and glass are made.
- Use the writing materials to draw a map of the rooms of your home or classroom, it doesn't matter if it is accurate or not! This is just an introduction to maps! Follow the map with them!



Ask a Question

What do you think our home is made out of? Do you see anything else made out of the same material? Where do you think those materials came from? (Wood- Trees, Brick -Clay and Shale, Glass-Sand)



Vocabulary Builder

- Architecture
- Explore
- Similarities
- Differences
- Map
- Neighborhood
- Shapes – square, rectangle, triangle, circle, oval

Other Activities: Discuss with the children what materials they would use to build a home. Have the children draw a picture of the home they would make.