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.