

We Skoolhouse



Ready-Made Curriculum: My Community & Me



A Practical Guide for Exploration

Each unit offers a suggested flow of experiences designed to support deep, meaningful learning through play. You'll notice intentional repetition—this is purposeful. Repeating activities builds memory, mastery, confidence, attention, and focus, forming the foundation for long-term learning.

The experiences are open-ended & process-driven, focusing on how children learn rather than what they produce. This allows for a range of learning styles & encourages exploration at each child's unique pace.

Flexibility Matters

Each unit includes a suggested daily activity guide to support your planning—but it's not meant to be followed rigidly or completed in a set order:

- **Follow the children's lead:** If they're deeply engaged, slow down. If interest fades, it's okay to pause and return later. Some children need time to warm up to new ideas—don't move on too quickly. Repeating an invitation over several days can spark richer engagement.
- **Move at your own pace:** Stretch a week into two, repeat activities as long as needed, and allow units to grow over time.
- **Revisit, don't rush:** There's no need to introduce a new unit each month. Returning to a familiar concept—like revisiting water after exploring texture or paint—deepens understanding and strengthens memory. Revisiting isn't starting over—it's going further.

This guide is about making space for curiosity, experimentation, and meaningful learning. Use it as a springboard—trust yourself, trust the children, and allow learning to unfold naturally.



Unit: My Community & Me

Exploring "My Community and Me" invites preschoolers into a world of connection, identity, and belonging. Through drawing, building, storytelling, mapping, and observing, preschoolers strengthen social understanding, communication skills, and a sense of place—all through meaningful, hands-on exploration. Repeating these experiences deepens their memory, empathy, and appreciation for the people and spaces around them.

Domain	How It Supports Development
Physical	Supports fine motor development through drawing self-portraits, building homes with recycled materials, and creating community maps. Activities like mural-making and vertical art build gross motor balance, coordination, and strength.
Cognitive	Builds self-concept, spatial awareness, and symbolic thinking as children explore who they are, where they live, and how people work together. Mapping and comparing homes foster categorization and abstract reasoning.
Language	Expands vocabulary, storytelling, and expressive language as children describe their families, roles, and daily routines. Interviews, documentation, and discussion about community helpers build communication skills.
Social-Emotional	Strengthens identity, empathy, and a sense of belonging. Recognizing family diversity & exploring community roles builds self-esteem, respect for others, & civic understanding. Supports collaboration and cooperation through shared projects.

Unit: My Community & Me

Focus Materials: Exploring identity, family, and place through creative expression, storytelling, mapping, and shared experiences — fostering belonging, empathy, and a sense of agency within community.

Books: All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold, and Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña

Songs: “The More We Get Together” and “If You’re Happy and You Know It” (community-themed verses)

Vocabulary: Community, neighborhood, citizen, helper, resident, family, friendship, cooperation, service, volunteer, post office, fire station, hospital, grocery store, map, address, route, responsibility, belonging

Week 1: Me — Who Am I?

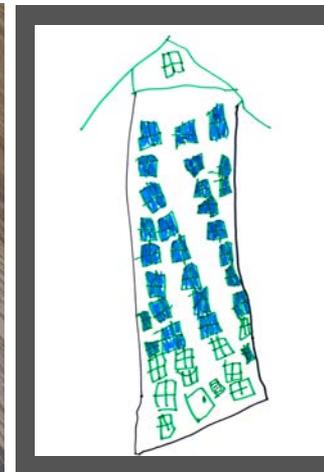
Focus Concept: Building self-awareness through reflection, representation, and personal expression.

Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	What Makes Me, Me? (Self-Portrait with mirrors and pencils)	What do you notice about yourself?
Tuesday	Self-Portrait with Loose Parts	How can you show yourself with these materials?
Wednesday	Create Your Name with Loose Parts	What letters are in your name? Can you make them?
Thursday	What Makes Me, Me? (Reflection + Self-Portrait with Paint)	What makes you special?
Friday	Free Expression: Favorite Way to Express Yourself (drawing, building)	How do you want to share who you are today?

Week 2: My Family — Who Do I Belong To?

Focus Concept: Exploring family connections through storytelling, art, and shared experiences.

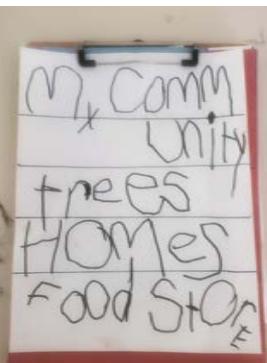
Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Create the Members of Your Family	"Who lives with you?"
Tuesday	Create Your Family with Loose Parts	"Can you show your family using materials?"
Wednesday	Family Story Sharing (verbal or pictures)	"What do you love to do with your family?"
Thursday	Home Sketches	"What does your home look like? What's your favorite space in your home and why?"
Friday	Build Your Home with Recycled Materials	"Can you create a model of where you live?"



Week 3: My Neighborhood — What's Around Me?

Focus Concept: Observing and mapping the environment through drawing, building, and collaborative projects.

Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Documenting Our Community (create a list of what children see)	What places and people do we see every day?
Tuesday	Sketch Spots: Draw Something from the Community (indoor or outdoor)	What do you notice outside or nearby?
Wednesday	Vertical Art: Community Mural (group drawing on upright paper with neighborhood images as inspiration)	What do we find in our community? What would you add to our neighborhood?
Thursday	Map Making (children create "maps")	What's around you? What places matter to you?
Friday	What Can You Build?	What buildings or spaces are in a community?



Week 4: We Belong — How Do We Care for Each Other?

Focus Concept: Fostering empathy, responsibility, and contribution through community-centered action.

Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Brainstorm: How Can We Support Our Community? (group discussion + vote)	What can we do to show we care?
Tuesday	Community Project Part 1: Plan + Create (cards, baked goods, community clean-up, etc.)	What would you like to give, contribute, or make for others?
Wednesday	Community Project Part 2: Delivery Day (visit or send items to community workers)	Who are the helpers in our neighborhood?
Thursday	Communal Community Art Project	What can we create together that shows our community?
Friday	Reflection & Revisit Favorite Activity: What Did We Learn About Ourselves & Our Community?	What are you proud of?



Integrating My Community & Me Across Centers

Integrating elements of your investigation across the centers gives children repeated opportunities to explore and deepen their understanding in diverse ways. When materials and provocations connected to the broader topic appear throughout the environment, children can build, imagine, experiment, and express ideas across contexts. This natural repetition strengthens memory, supports flexible thinking, and invites children to transfer and expand their knowledge. Rather than isolating learning to one area, weaving the investigation through the classroom honors how young children learn best—through play, exploration, and meaningful, ongoing connections.

- **Dramatic Play Area**

- Create a pretend post office, grocery store, or bakery with real materials (Let children decide & help decorate the space).
- Add community worker props (mailbags, aprons, clipboards, hats).
- Include photos of local buildings, families, or children themselves.



- **Blocks and Construction**

- Offer recycled boxes, tubes, and cardboard for building homes and community landmarks.
- Add printed photos of neighborhood places for reference.
- Include people figures or children's photos to place in structures.
- Wrap unit blocks in construction paper for children to decorate different type of structures.

Integrating My Community & Me Across Centers (Cont'd)

- **Science and Discovery Center**

- Include real tools used by community helpers (scales, flashlights, stethoscopes).
- Collect and provide nature finds and/or animals figures/artifacts that inhabit your community (rocks, feathers, nests, twigs, toy deer, birds, etc.)

- **Art Studio**

- Set up mirrors, loose parts and labels of children's names for self portrait or name creation provocations.
- Include images of different environments, neighborhoods or structures to inspire artwork.



- **Sensory Table**

- Fill with multicultural cooking ingredients (rice, lentils) and kitchen tools.
- Create a community garden sensory bin with soil, seeds, and scoops.
- Add small homes and figures for neighborhood storytelling in sensory bins.

- **Outdoor Exploration**

- Community walks: observe and document what's seen (plants, buildings, signs).
- Sidewalk chalk: decorate your community!
- Build a simple outdoor town with logs, rocks, and natural materials.