



# CitySteps<sup>™</sup> Literacy



Every neighborhood is rich with opportunities for children to learn and use language. There are places to live, places to shop, places to eat, places to play, and lots of people to meet. Consider a variety of activities that invite children to become more aware of the unique features of their neighborhoods. Use every opportunity to encourage children to describe, explain, or talk about their feelings and opinions.

- ◆ Brainstorm a list of places to visit in your neighborhood, such as a park, zoo, library, police station, and so on. Ask children to name one or two things they expect to see at each place.
- ◆ Point out street signs and names of stores on neighborhood sidewalks. Talk about how people use signs to get information. Encourage children to think about different kinds of signs they can make for the classroom.
- ◆ Plan a field trip to a local restaurant. Use the experience to collect ideas for props to include in your classroom restaurant, such as signs and menus.
- ◆ Read aloud a variety of fiction and nonfiction books about neighborhoods to build background knowledge, promote conversations, and nurture a love of books.



## Early Literacy Skills

<b>Oral Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Asks questions, explains, and gives directions</li> <li>◆ Links new experiences and vocabulary to what is already known about a topic</li> <li>◆ Uses language as a part of dramatic play</li> </ul>
<b>Print Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Understands books are handled in a certain way</li> <li>◆ Understands that a book has a title and an author</li> <li>◆ Understands that print runs from left to right and top to bottom</li> </ul>
<b>Phonological Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Becomes more sensitive to the sounds of spoken words</li> <li>◆ Begins to identify rhymes and rhyming sounds in familiar words</li> <li>◆ Begins to attend to beginning consonant sounds in familiar words</li> </ul>
<b>Alphabet Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Begins to associate the names of letters with their shapes</li> <li>◆ Names many uppercase letters</li> <li>◆ Writes his or her own name</li> </ul>
<b>Emergent Writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Writes for many purposes</li> <li>◆ Composes and dictates or writes messages</li> <li>◆ Uses class writing center and writes in block and dramatic play centers</li> </ul>