



Storied Spaces

Recreate your neighborhood in miniature and help your child articulate their feelings through storytelling.

Activity Instructions

Walk around your neighborhood or look at your explorations from last week. At each building you encounter, use your face and body to act out how it makes you feel, such as happy, sad, angry, scared, or surprised. Talk together about the reasoning behind your and their feelings.

When you get home, recreate your neighborhood map with physical items. Buildings can be made from recycled boxes, blocks, books, or items that represent the building's purpose, such as a letter to represent a post office, a family picture for your home, a book for the library, etc. Explore your mini neighborhood by crawling, walking, and stomping through it. Then move the buildings around to make your ideal neighborhood.

Finally, work together to make up a story about one of the buildings you saw and talked about. Start with the opening sentence: One day I went to the _____ (building name). Then ask your child to give you the next sentence. Take turns adding one sentence at a time to continue building your story. Your story might get pretty silly, so embrace that! It can provide an opportunity to talk with your child about what we can and can't do in different buildings and why.

When you feel your story is finished, ask your child to tell it to you again. As they retell the story, write on the back of this sheet. Then read it back to them as you act it out together.

Activity Extensions



Changing Feelings

Try doing the feelings activity different times on the same day or over a few days. Did your feelings change? Did anything about the building change? Introduce new feelings, like contentment, frustration, or confusion.

Draw It

Draw a character, place, or scene from the story you made up together. Compare drawings; talk about how your imaginations and memories differed or were the same.

Past and Future Places

Tell your child a story of your neighborhood from before they were born or about your neighborhood when you were a child. Make predictions about how the neighborhood will change in the future.

See more at-home activities at nbm.org/learn/families/

