



## Programme 6 - The World Around Us

### Introduction

This week the Hurley-Burley man is going on a journey, following directions he has been given to find his way. We see a group of children identifying some features in their local environment, the church, bridge, school, shop etc. followed by a trip to their local fire station. The visit is consolidated by some lively role-play back in the classroom. Our song and story are all about giving and getting directions.

### Learning Opportunities

#### The Arts

- role play – including the work of the fireman;
- listening to songs.

#### Early Maths

- counting objects;
- following directions;
- understanding positional and directional language;

#### Language Development

- recalling events in sequence;
- following simple instructions;
- asking and answering questions;
- communicating with others during play.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- keeping safe in the environment, including road safety;
- wearing protective clothing;
- making choices;
- co-operating in play;
- helping others.

#### Physical Development

- moving quickly / slowly;
- developing gross motor skills e.g. running, jumping, sliding, climbing, pushing, riding;
- developing hand-eye co-ordination;

#### The World Around Us

- learning about the work of the fireman and postman;

- looking at and talking about safety equipment and protective clothing;
- understanding that maps help us find our way about;
- planting seeds and looking at pond life;
- identifying buildings in the local environment.

### Suggested Activities

- Set up a travel agency in the imaginative play corner. (Most local travel agents will provide you with old brochures and posters to decorate the area.) Provide some props such as writing materials, a telephone and perhaps a globe. Younger children will enjoy looking at the brochures but this can be extended for older children by introducing tickets and encouraging them to make their own passports.
- In the house corner introduce a small suitcase or grip so that the children may experience packing a case. Ask questions such as, What should we pack for a short holiday? Will it all fit into the case?
- Go for neighbourhood walks. (It is amazing how much more the children will notice when they are in a pre-school group even if they travel the same route to pre-school every day!) This also provides stimulus for discussion about buildings, architecture, shops and open spaces.
- Invite 'people who help us' into the setting. (The Fire Service, PSNI and Ambulance Service all have Education Officers and are well worth contacting) Do not forget that the milkman, district nurse, postman local mechanic and hairdresser can all give the children a valuable insight into their work.
- How about setting up a 'hats' interest table. Collect hats (or use play hats) e.g. chef, doctor, policeman, soldier, builder. Gather together reference books so that the children can match up the hats to people. If you cannot get enough hats, you might set up a 'tools' table with e.g. a rolling pin, handcuffs, spirit level, safety gloves. This will provide a stimulus for discussion.
- Make a collage/display of your local area, letting the children choose from a variety of materials.. Discuss the different buildings – their sizes, shapes and uses.
- To help the children understand the whole process of sending a letter, send a letter to yourself in the setting passing on some information, e.g. about a teddy bears picnic next week where everyone is invited to bring along their own teddy. Ask the children questions e.g. How did the letter get here? How long did it take to get here? Who wrote and posted the letter? What should we do now?