

Bear about Town

- Written by Stella Blackstone
- Illustrated by Debbie Harter
- Barefoot Books, 2000

The first book in this unit follows Bear through his weekly routine. As he visits the bakery, the gym, and all his other favorite community places, children make connections to places in their own neighborhood. Children are introduced to positional language and using maps as they follow Bear about his town.

Vocabulary

- town: another word for neighborhood
- bakery: a shop that sells bread, cake, and other treats
- cinema: a movie theater

Trashy Town

- Written by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha
- Illustrated by Dan Yaccarino
- HarperCollins, 1999

This upbeat favorite offers children a detailed look at the daily routine of one community helper. It tells the story of Mr. Gilly's route to pick up the town's garbage. The rhyming refrain invites children's active participation and promotes fluency, as Mr. Gilly empties garbage cans at classic neighborhood locations such as the school, the pizza parlor, and the fire station.

Vocabulary

- empty: when there is nothing inside something
- full: when there is no more room inside something

The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk

- Written by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal
- Illustrated by Jess Golden
- Beach Lane Books, 2015

A variation on the song "The Wheels on the Bus," children are taken along for a ride in a tuk tuk, a kind of taxi used in India. They get a glimpse into Indian culture and daily life, as they read this sing-along book. The rhyme and repetition-filled text promotes phonological awareness and fluency, while encouraging children to think about different kinds of communities around the world.

Vocabulary

- sip: drink a little bit at a time

The Place Where You Live

- Written by James Luna
- Illustrated by Thelma Muraida
- Pinata Books, 2015

This bilingual book offers a tour of a small community with both Spanish and English text. Children are encouraged to look carefully at the illustrations and point out familiar places and things, as well as draw connections between the sense of community in the book's neighborhood and their own.

The Bus for Us

- Written by Suzanne Bloom
- Illustrated by Suzanne Bloom
- Boyds Mills Press, 2013

Tess and Gus are waiting for the school bus to pick them up. Each time a vehicle approaches the bus stop, Tess asks, "Is this the bus for us, Gus?" As the characters wait and wonder, they observe various other vehicles such as a taxi, fire engine, and ice cream truck. Children join in reading the repeating lines in this predictable book, and note common vehicles they can observe in their own local community. Great for vehicle lovers everywhere!

Vocabulary

- tow: to pull a vehicle

Around the Neighborhood

- Written by Sarah L. Thompson
- Illustrated by Jana Christy
- Amazon Publishing, 2012

In this fresh take on the well-known "Over in the Meadow" counting song, we see what the animals in the community are doing on a sunny day. The text engages children with rhyme and repetition, counting up from one to ten.

Vocabulary

- pounce: to jump or push your whole body forward
- soar: fly very high

Daniel's Good Day

- Written by Micha Archer
- Illustrated by Micha Archer
- Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019

Join Daniel on his neighborhood stroll. As the character politely greets his neighbors, children meet different community helpers, such as a gardener, a mail carrier, and a crossing guard. Through Daniel's friendly eyes, children discuss how each and every member of the community can contribute to making it a good place to live, work, and have fun together. What a good day!

Vocabulary

- busy: a lot going on

What Do Wheels Do All Day?

- Written by April Jones Prince
- Illustrated by Giles Laroche
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006

The rhyming text of this informational book engages children, as they learn about how wheels are used in everyday life. They explore how wheels help us do important jobs in our community, learn vocabulary associated with movement, and practice sorting objects by their number of wheels.

Vocabulary

- spin: to go around in a circle
- pedal: to push or press away with your feet

Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Sleep

- Written by April Pulley Sayre
- Illustrated by Steve Jenkins
- Henry Holt and Company, 2016

Informative and action packed, this poem introduces readers to one of the busiest creatures in any community, the squirrel. Children learn vocabulary related to how squirrels move, their body parts, and different types of squirrels. This book provides an opportunity for children to think and ask questions about nonfiction texts while detailing how one animal neighbor makes its home in the community.

Vocabulary

- leap: to stretch and jump through the air
- store: to put away for later