

# 45021 Our Town

Ages 3–5

Our Town invites children to explore the world around them and discover what it means to be part of a community. The building cards are designed to inspire open-ended construction, and the ideas below encourage children to explore different ways of using the set.



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## Teacher Tip

The eight building cards can be used to create eight different models at the same time. Children can choose which side of the card they would like to use. The models on both sides of each card use most of the same bricks.

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## Tip

Laminate the building cards to make them more durable.

## 5 Ideas:

- ✦ Use the set to teach about communities. Ask children about the particular areas in a town. Ask them to discuss the different places and the people who work at and visit those places. Ask children to build the areas and use figures to act out different roles.
- ✦ Use the set to problem solve. Pass out the building cards to the children. Describe a scenario and ask them to hold up their cards if they think the cards show a solution. For example, tell them that something is broken, and ask them to show the places where things are fixed. Children can also build the places.
- ✦ Use the set to explore collaboration and the concept of parts of a whole. Talk about the different rooms or parts of an entire building or place. For example, a park has different areas: a playground, picnic tables, and restrooms. Ask children to build different areas and then put them together to make a whole.
- ✦ Use the set to role-play. Ask children to build locations that some people might not enjoy visiting (i.e., doctor's office, hair salon, or barber) and discuss their reasoning. Ask them to use figures to act out uncomfortable situations in these settings, and ask for suggestions about how the experiences could become more pleasant.
- ✦ Use the set to teach about community values. Explain that some towns have landmarks, such as statues, fountains, or special buildings, that remind people of important events, historical figures, and values. Ask them to discuss the values they believe are important and to build a town landmark that represents these values.

## Vocabulary for Children:

- community
- responsibility
- role
- animal clinic
- auto repair shop
- hospital

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