

# Around the Community

Connecting Through Play & Culture



# Attributions

The CHILD Family Kits are a collaborative project under the Cultural Heritage Improves Learning & Development (CHILD) curriculum.

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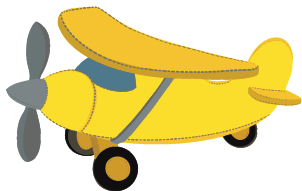
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# BRIDGE - Borrow

## Materials:

2 Books



Airplane Pillow



Wooden Airplane

Now is a great time to practice counting skills by making sure all of the materials are in the kit!

## Family Message

Flying is a necessity when traveling to and from many of Alaska's urban and rural areas, and also provides access to needed resources and each other. When flying over your community, what places or local landmarks can you identify?

This kit includes:

- Books about airplanes and rural communities.
- An airplane pillow for snuggling while reading together.
- A toy airplane for pretend play.
- BRIDGE cards for exploring your community.



1

2

3

4



# Enjoy this journey in learning about your community!

Got 5 minutes? Read a story or choose a short activity.  
If you have a larger amount of time, spend 20 minutes to complete the House Design activity.

Story Time



Community Activities



Design a House



Career Connection



## Scavenger Hunt:

Can you find these places throughout the cards?



Playground



House



Clinic



Store



Post Office

# BRIDGE - Read



## The Littlest Airplane

Author: Brooke Hartman  
Illustrator: John Joseph

### Picture Walk

Flip through the pages, without reading words, to highlight the illustrations and ask these guiding questions:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What do you notice about the runway in this story compared to the one in your community?
- What do you think is happening on this page?



## Sharing Stories

Find a comfy spot and snuggle up for story time!

## Ask Engaging Questions

How are the planes similar or different from each other?

How do you think the family got lost?

Which of the planes do you think will be able to rescue the family?

Why couldn't the bigger planes land?

Can you tell me about a time you helped someone in need?





# Molly's Awesome Alaska Guide

## Molly of Denali

Authors: WGBH Kids



## Molly on the Move!

What do you notice about Molly's community?

Tell me about some favorite people in your life.

What types of activities or events happen in your community throughout the year?

How does Molly travel around her community?

What are some traditions or hobbies within your family?

What types of family adventures do you like to do around your community?



## Making Community Signs

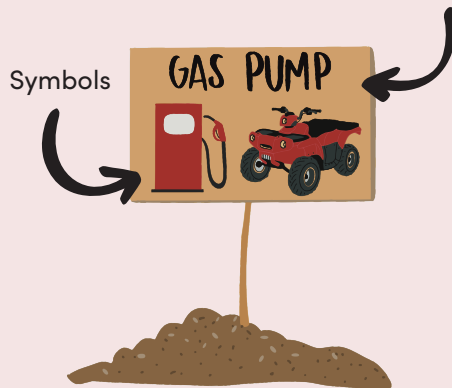
Symbols and signs are often the first things young children learn to "read"! Signs around small communities can be very limited. While working together, remember to include both the word in bold letters and an image for your sign.

*What places around your community need a sign to display?*



**To Display:** Cut a thin, but sturdy, stick and wedge it into the layers between the cardboard. Dig into the dirt (or snow) to make your sign stand up for everyone to see!

Big, Bold Letters



**EARLY LITERACY SKILL**  
**Environmental Print**

By making connections between symbols & printed words, children develop an understanding that symbols contain meaning to represent familiar things within their surroundings.

# BRIDGE - Investigate

## Places for Strong Emotions

Everyone experiences strong emotions sometimes, such as feeling sad, angry, frustrated or anxious. Often, there are places outside that make you feel calm or at peace. Sharing your special place with your child will give them a way for working through these emotions.



**Share** a memory of a time when you were angry, sad, or upset.

**Remind** them that we all experience emotions and can cope in positive ways when needed.

**Playing together,** like throwing rocks or climbing a tree, can help.

## Honoring Connections

Every community has a variety of local landmarks that hold significance to many. Sometimes it's a special rock, cliff, hill or mountain, lake, or even a little section of the river! Visit with others to identify these landmarks and their place-names. By sharing this knowledge with your child, they will develop a strong sense of place and empowerment of passing down that local knowledge themselves one day.

Visit with an elder or loved one to learn about:

- A time or memory they have of a local landmark.
- The landmark's name and origin story.
- The importance of remembering special places within our community.

Encourage your child to let you know when they'd like to visit their special spot!



# Going the Distance

Discuss ways to measure distances around your community. By talking about the location of areas, you are supporting your child's spatial awareness skills within their surroundings and developing early navigation skills.

I wonder how far it is from our:



Demonstrate how to reset the odometer to zero for each new destination.



Discuss how fast you are going and show the speedometer.

"Wow that was 1.5 miles!"

"We are going 20 mph!"

## \*Extra Fun:

When walking, use the free app "Runkeeper" to display a map of your route and share how fast you are going.

# Community Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger hunts are a fun and engaging way to increase vocabulary, develop reading skills, and practice observational skills!

Select a Stick



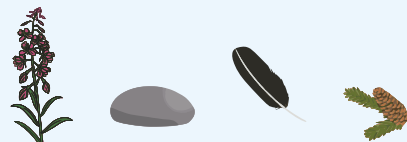
Go for a Walk



Compare Measurements




Use the stick as a measurement tool to compare:



Which is taller or shorter? Which is more narrow or wider?

\***Extra Tip:** Go beyond just using "bigger" or "smaller" to describe or compare items!

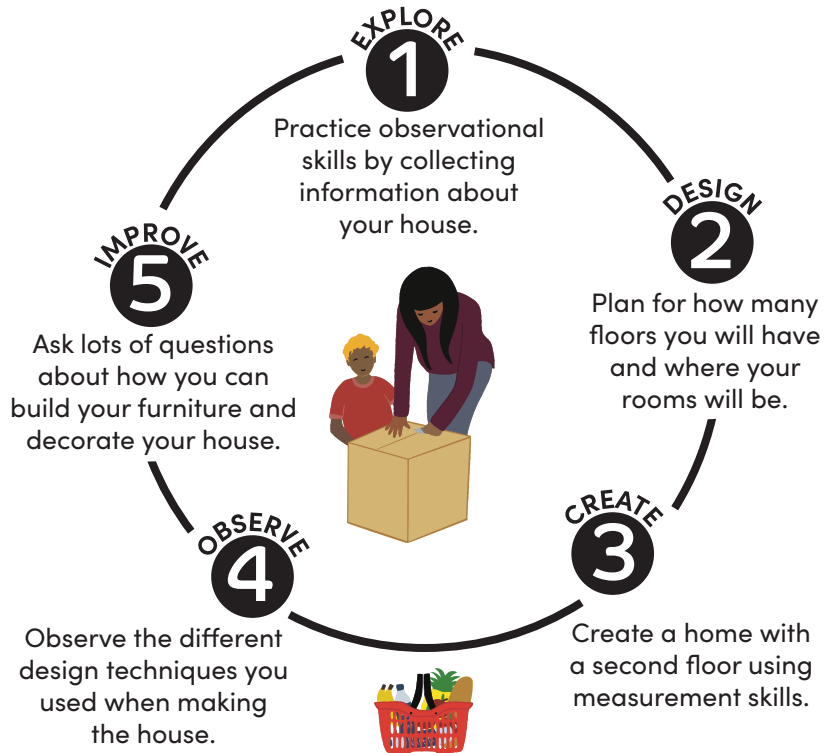
## The 5 Math Areas

Numbers & Counting  
Patterns & Story Problems  
Data Analysis & Probability  
 **Measurement & Math Tools**  
Shapes & Spatial Awareness

## EARLY MATH SKILL Making Comparisons

Children rely on visual perception and problem solving skills when analyzing and comparing the length or size of objects.

# BRIDGE - Design



## H is for House

“My house is so cool. I made a ladder to climb, windows, a bed, a clock, a table, and even a TV! I want to keep my house forever!”

See you next time! - Sawyer

...with **STEAM**

# 1 EXPLORE

Let's create a blueprint of our house.

Yes! Let's count our rooms and make a map! Then I can choose what will go in my cardboard house.



# Science

Scientists create and use maps in their work.



## Collect Materials



Cardboard Box



Pieces of Cardboard



Markers



Utility Knife



Glue



Scissors

Ask your child whether each material is technology. Have your child point to **technology** or **not**.



## Guiding Questions:

Is it found in nature or invented by humans?  
What is it made of? (discuss characteristics)  
How is this tool helpful to humans?

# Technology

Technology is human made instead of natural & is helpful to humans.

## 2 DESIGN

### 1 Find a Box

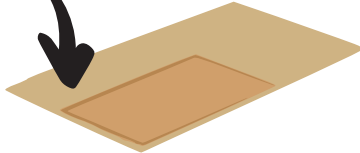
Find a box to use for a house and some spare cardboard if your child wants multiple 'floor levels'.



### 2 Measure & Cut

Cut the top flap off and use to measure a new floor.

This will give you an approximate guess to how long and wide the floor cardboard needs to be. Add on another ½ inch to give enough room.



## 3 CREATE

### 3 Cut 2 Slits

Cut slits into each side you want the floor to connect to and insert the cardboard. Make any adjustments as needed.



### 4 Ask Questions

Observe and start asking questions:

- What do you want to include within your house?
- How many rooms?
- How do you go upstairs?
- What do we have in the house that we can use as a bed or a table?



# Engineering



### Fostering Independence

Be your child's assistant by helping, not doing. Allow them to come up with ideas and try them out. Allow creativity and be the artist 'assistant' as you help cut, glue, or tape objects into place.

## 4 OBSERVE

### Art Focus: Design

In this art lesson, your young artist designed their own house with found objects and easily recycled materials. Design can include:

- Researching or gathering information.
- Planning and sketching.
- Trying different ways of doing things.



#### Design

Design is about fostering creativity as children build on their knowledge of materials and processes.

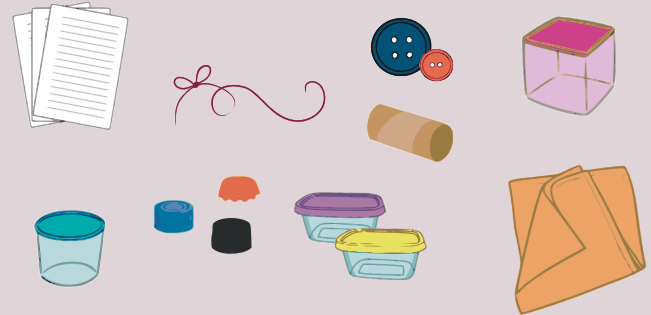
# Art

*Artists gather, compile, and reflect on what they observe about art.*

## 5 IMPROVE

Find materials around your home to create furniture and other items for your house.

What types of things can you create?



#### Recycling

Share how we can recycle materials into art. Recycling is important as it reduces waste and is a way we can take care of our land. Set up a recycling bin in your house for clean items to be used in future projects.

# Math

*How can you improve your design using math?*

# BRIDGE - Grow

## When I Grow Up...

*Pilots help people travel quickly and bring supplies to our communities.*

### What is important to Pilots?

#### ★ Job Safety

Pilots inspect their planes before each flight to ensure it is in proper working order.

#### ★ Teamwork

They communicate with ground crews to know when the airstrip is clear and safe for take-off and landing.

#### ★ Practice

Pilots spend many hours in training so they are prepared in an emergency.



Becoming a pilot takes many hours of study and practice. We rely on pilots to transport people and necessary supplies to our Alaskan communities.



## As I Grow...

*I can explore my community.*

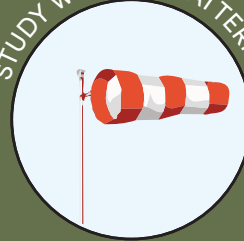
USE MAPS AND CHARTS



LEARN ABOUT TRANSPORTATION



STUDY WEATHER PATTERNS



EXERCISE AND EAT WELL



## I can be a Pilot!





# Meet Pat Shryock

Pilot and Family Business Owner

## Career Dedication

Pat Shryock has found a sense of accomplishment and purpose through hard work and dedication as a pilot, instructor, and owner of Coastal Air. Becoming a pilot has provided a lifetime of work that continues to educate every day.

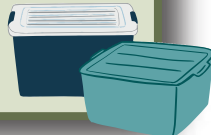


## Aspects of the Job

Mr. Shryock loves to help people that are interested in Aviation fulfill their aspirations for achieving success through aviation training. He has found joy in helping many students, and seeing their skills and careers take off. He has traveled to many places as a pilot.

## Helping Communities

Pilots bring supplies, food and equipment to communities inaccessible by other modes of transportation. They take sick or injured people and animals to receive healthcare and transport community members throughout villages for personal and work-related reasons.



## Challenges

Flying in Alaska presents challenges not found in most of the lower 48. Weather and finding proper weather reporting can be difficult. You have to interpret weather systems and forecast with knowledge of the area. Reading wind and weather in mountains is a daily form of pilot skills.

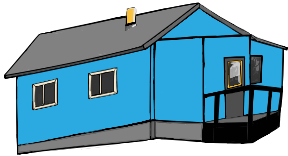


# BRIDGE - Explore

Explore the Language App!



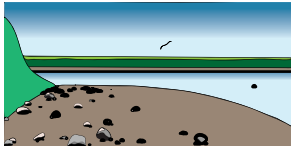
Can you find these words?



House



Airplane



Beach

## What to Explore Next?

We hope you have enjoyed this kit! Here are some ways you can continue to explore.

Share the Activities You Did Together



Watch: Me on the Map video



Check Out Another BRIDGE Family Kit



# References

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Learning & Development

