



My Community Friends

Requirements

1. Name five (5) different friends who live in your community.
2. Make a scrapbook or collage of your neighborhood friends, including at least five (5) different people.
3. Tell three (3) things that you and your friends can do to make your neighborhood a better place.
4. Tell one of your friends that Jesus loves them.
5. Do something nice for a community friend.
6. Make a new friend in your neighborhood.



Supporting Answers

People the children know who are not part of their family or close friend group.
It is best to help the children focus on people who live close to them.

Teaching Idea: Name five (5) different friends who live in your community. AND
Make a scrapbook or collage of your neighborhood friends, including at least five (5) different people.

Materials: Booklets made of folded construction paper containing 6 pages (a cover plus 5 friend pages), crayons or markers, glue, copies of a "title picture" for the front of book which says, "My Community Friends".

NOTE: Ahead of time, ALERT PARENTS that they will need to bring pictures of 5 different people who live near them for this activity.

Procedure:

1. We are thinking and talking about people that you know, who live close to you, but are not part of your family. They are called Community Friends.
2. Hand out the scrapbook booklets and the cover picture. Have the children color the picture and then cut and glue it to the front of the book.
3. Next, have the children collect the five pictures from their parent and lay them out in front of them.
4. Go around the table and have each child share the name of each person, where they live in relation to the child's family, and one interesting fact about that community friend. Example: This is Mr. Joe. He lives across the street. He has a big cat. This is Sasha. She lives beside us. She likes to grow tomatoes. Etc. Each child should introduce one friend each time around until all 5 friends have been introduced.
5. Have the Early Birds glue the pictures of their friends into their books and add the name of the neighbor somewhere on the page with the picture.
6. It works well to have each child glue in the picture and name once they have introduced the person so that when the introductions are done, the books are mostly complete. Note: If necessary, the children may draw their community friends.

Teaching Idea: Tell three (3) things that you and your friends can do to make your neighborhood a better place.

Materials: No materials needed.

Procedure:

1. Ask the Early Birds what some things are that they and their neighborhood friends can do to make their neighborhood a better place to live. Any answer works. Some ideas would be: keep our yard looking nice, speak kindly to neighbors when we see them outside, help an elderly neighbor who struggles to keep their yard nice (always ask first), don't litter, keep trash picked in the community playground.
2. Encourage the children to select something they have talked about to go home and do with their family to make their neighborhood nicer.

Teaching Idea: Tell one of your friends that Jesus loves them.

Materials: Coloring page for each child with a picture or design along with the words "Jesus Loves You", crayons for coloring.

Procedure:

1. Hand out the "Jesus Loves You" pictures. Have the Early Birds color their pages.
2. Ask them to talk with their parent about which neighbor to give the artwork to and to tell them that Jesus Loves Them.
3. Encourage the children to give their coloring page to their community friend within the coming week.

Teaching Idea: Do something nice for a community friend.

Materials: No materials needed.

Procedure:

1. Ask the children to look at the pictures of their community friends and tell you what something is that they could do for one of those friends that would be nice or would make that friend smile.
2. Allow Early Birds to respond with their ideas and guide them to things which they and their parent would actually be able to do.
3. After each child has responded a couple of times, ask them which one of their ideas are they going to do this next week for a community friend.
4. At the next meeting, ask for a report about how doing the nice thing went.

Teaching Idea: Make a new friend in your neighborhood.

Materials: No materials needed



Procedure:

1. Discuss with the Early Birds and their parents, who some people might be in their neighborhoods that might be able to meet.
2. Also, discuss how the family might meet this new person or family. It might be at the community playground or maybe taking a gift to someone who moved in recently, etc.

Note: Safety is essential with this requirement. Parents should make sure that new friends are safe friends