

Computers & Kids

NEWS

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COMPUTER EXPLORERS

Build a Village with Your Children!

Who was your town made for?

Take a new look at your town after describing to your child the concepts of personal and public property. Personal property is a concept that young children catch onto quickly. But what are public property and public works? How can we teach children to show respect for public property? Libraries, schools, and parks are all great examples of public property that your children can wrap their brains around! What about drinking water, roads and bridges, and community helpers such as police and firemen?

Where does water come from? Learn more about drinking water; go on a Great H2O Adventure to Orlando, Florida to follow a drop of water through their water system at http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/waste_water/kids/page1.htm.

Who cleans the streets? Explain to children how we all share the responsibility to keep our streets clean. And sometimes we need to call in the help of street sweepers and snow plows. For answers to tough public works' questions, coloring pages, mazes, and more visit the Public Works Paws website at <http://www.pwpaws.net/>!

Design your own town! Lego City is full of fun public works facts and inspiration for children to build their own city! Did you know that the Empire State Building is the 9th tallest building in the world! Challenge your child to design a building that is 102 Lego pieces high to represent the 102 floors of the Empire State Building! When your children need a break from building, let them unwind with some Lego City downloads, including dot-to-dot drawings, party cards, stickers and more! See <http://city.lego.com/>.



A great math exercise to get older children involved in Lego City is to ask them to build public property to scale. Look up the height of the Tallest Water Tower from the LittleClickers newsletter and challenge your child to build an accurate miniature. The Lego Design School is the perfect place to send your older builders to get their start urban planning! See <http://www.lego.com/eng/create/designschool/courses.asp>.

Buckleitner Box

Dear Parents,

Have you touched a Multi-Touch? If you haven't had this experience, run (don't walk) to somebody who has either an iPhone or an iPod Touch. Chances are, they're under 18, so it won't be too hard to pry it (politely) from their hands. Notice how you can pinch, pull, and flick objects with a touch of a finger. If the phone has Google Earth (free, from the Apple Apps store) pull your way down to your hometown by spreading your thumb and index finger. Amazing, right? Now for the show-stopper – tilt the screen forward or back, and watch the horizon shift, in real time. It's as if you're standing on the top of a water tower, looking around at the horizon. You're holding in your hands the digital interfaces, and understanding the full potential of what these devices will offer for our children is important.

Speaking of water towers, this issue of LittleClickers has some fun links on these metal monsters; including a YouTube video of one actually falling over. Now, if you ask me, that's a good use of YouTube! Enjoy the issue, and make sure to get outside to sniff a few analog spring flowers.

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