



## Our Town Post Office



### Introduction to the Exhibit:

Special delivery! Have you ever wanted to be a mailman? Now is your chance! Put on your hat and coat, grab a mail bag and collect the mail waiting to be delivered in the post box. There are cards and letters to be sent throughout Our Town: the Animal Hospital, Oakie Acres, the Lobster Boat, Fire Truck and the Market are all expecting something in the mail today. Can you ensure that everyone's mail will arrive safely? Look carefully for the special mailbox in each part of Our Town. Come rain or shine, help get the mail to its destination on time!

### The Power of Play:

By role playing and creating real life situations, children learn about the world around them and discover key skills important for their success

with peers. During play, children strengthen their discoveries about suitable behavior in various situations, as well as enhance their ability to think creatively. In addition to promoting the growth of imagination, improving memory and increasing vocabulary skills, the opportunity to engage in role play allows children the chance to learn valuable social skills (such as the ability to understand different perspectives) that they will continue to develop into their adult lives. This exhibit is an ideal place for undirected play to occur, which encourages children to share ("Can we take turns delivering the mail?"), listen ("Did you ask to go to the vet first to pick up the mail?") and negotiate ("You can deliver the letters to the lobster boat today since I did it last time and I'll pick up the package at Oakie Acres.") while learning to work in pairs and/or groups. Role play (such as pretending to be a mailman) enables children to make choices and explore while developing language and leadership skills.

**ASK:** Ask your child to check in with other children when she delivers the mail to the various exhibits. For example, when she goes to the Vet Clinic, can she ask the veterinarian if he would like his mail handed to him or if he'd prefer it if she left it in the mailbox? Ask your child if he remembers getting a certain card in the mail from a friend or relative. How did he feel when he received that birthday

card from grandma? Was he excited to get the invitation to a pool party last summer? If he could write a letter to anyone in the whole world, who would it be? Why?

**LISTEN:** Listen as your child reads each address. Listen to her plan how she is going to get to each exhibit to deliver the mail. Does she plan on making more than one delivery to each part of Our Town? Who is each letter from? What does she think they are writing about (perhaps someone is sending payment to the Vet for medicine for his dog)? Listen for any conversations she starts with other children in the exhibits as she delivers the letters. Does she ask questions about the mail, or about objects/displays in other areas of the Museum & Theatre?

**LOOK:** Look at how to properly address an envelope. What kind of information should you include to ensure the letter reaches its destination? Look around each section of Our Town to see if you can spot the special mailbox in the Market, the Animal Hospital, the Lobster Boat, the Fire Truck and Oakie Acres. What do you see on each mailbox? How is each one related to its exhibit?

**Key Vocabulary WORDS to USE in This Exhibit**

send letters package mailbag  
cost  
stamp delivery postcard destination  
arrive

**After Your Visit: The Learning Continues!**

Help your child write a letter to a relative or friend. Use crayons, markers and/or stickers to decorate the envelope and go to the post office together to purchase a stamp. Have your child affix the stamp to the envelope and put it in the mail slot to send to the letter recipient. How long does your child think it will take for the letter to arrive to its destination?

*\*We carefully choose the props and toys included in our exhibits. All of these items are in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lead testing standards.*