

# Bee-Bot Busy Street Mat



These provide some suggested points when using the Bee-Bot with the Busy Street Mat. The Busy Street Mat offers cross-curricular opportunities, and can be used with young children as well as older, depending on the differentiated tasks. Its flexibility makes it a useful resource.

## **Suggestions** (Setting the scene)



Ask the children to look at the various items/places on the 'Busy Street'. How many shops, houses, signs etc. can they see?



What do they think happens in the various places? What might they buy there?



What words can they see? If the words were removed would they still be aware of the places, identification and why?



Who has visited one of these places in real life? Compare and contrast.



What geographical vocabulary can be developed by finding street elements e.g. streetlight, mailbox, grate etc. Can they recall where they have seen such an item?



Would the street look different at different times of day? At school time (Start/End)? Lunchtime? Night? Day? Small clocks could be placed next to the shops to indicate shop opening times. Parking might be difficult at certain times of the day, for example when school lets out.



What materials can they see? Bricks? Wooden doors? Trash bins? etc.



Can they find things of certain:

- i. colors
- ii. shapes
- iii. properties
- iv. size etc.



The mat can be used for phoneme awareness games, such as finding things which start with 'r'.



### **Roles**

Where would the florist work? What does his/her role require? People who help us could also be incorporated into the street. A street crossing could be added, or a train crossing. This could be a useful way of discussing road safety.



### **Prices**

Place price tags in the shop windows. Go shopping with a specific task in mind. Work out costs and change. The Bee-Bot could be the shopper/delivery van, etc.



### **Stories**

Devise stories around the 'Busy Street'. Describe someone's typical day. Retell their journey by sequencing where they visited. Write a shopping list and collect the items.



### **Prepositions**

The Bee-Bot can go forwards, backwards left and right. It can turn in the direction you require in order to visit the garage or take tea at the tea shop. It can be 'near', 'far', 'next to' etc. The students can estimate distances, plan, record and test.



### **Odds and Evens**

The buildings are structured so that there are odd numbers and even numbers on different sides of the street. Why not cover some of the numbers and ask the students to work out which number is missing and why?



### **Housing**

There are different types of housing displayed, including an apartment building with an intercom device in order to gain entry.



### **Signs**

Why not ask the students to make additional signs, such as speed limits or warning signs.



### **Sounds**

What sounds would you hear on the street? Why not make your own recording?



### **Mapping**

Design your own side streets with additional shops and places. Either continue the main road or add on to the side street.



### **Conceptualization**

Build your own 3D houses/shops and place them on the corresponding bold building.

These are just some of the many ideas you might wish to try. The Busy Street Mat can be used in a very cross-curricular way. It can also be used as an individual group or class activity, directed or 'free' exploratory tasks.

These specific Bee-Bot activities provide some possible starting points.

# Bee-Bot Activities



The Bee-Bot can be programmed to move forward and back along the street. There are two side roads that it can turn into, as well as 'entering' the houses and shops. The Bee-Bot can be made to rotate in order to return to its initial direction.



The Bee-Bot can help children count as it moves from one square to the next. It might call at 2, 6, and then 8.



The Bee-Bot can deliver the mail to the houses (make pretend letters, cards, presents with the addresses and Bee-Bot can deliver them accordingly).



Play the lost mail game by trying to sort out mystery parcels to the correct place e.g. a cup and saucer, a vase, a spanner etc.



The Bee-Bot trailer can help with delivery items. Why not have real stamps, salt dough fruit, plastic flowers, and plastic cutlery i.e. mini 'real' items to deliver and retrieve?



Set up scenarios and ask the students to plan the route. The Bee-Bot can take on different character roles. For example, go and buy some flowers for your friends' birthday. Buy a card and a stamp. Mail the cards in the mailbox.

- You are going to a wedding and need new clothes, a haircut and some money to purchase these items. Plan your journey.
- Before Mrs. Jones picks up her daughter Mary from school she meets her friend at a local store before buying Mary's favorite snacks. Plan her journey.
- There is road works and temporary traffic lights (draw and attach with a Post-It). Stop at the bakery and allow extra 'pauses' for delays.
- Buy three flowers, two pears, a dozen eggs, and a new coat. Where would you go and what would your journey look like? A recipe or a shopping list might be followed.