

## My Very Own Postcard

### Materials and Preparations:

- Brochures from local travel agency of faraway countries and local pictures
- Maps of your area, atlases, and a globe
- Postcards from near and far (if possible)
- White construction paper
- Travel magazines
- Assorted art materials (crayons, markers, glitter, glue, chenille stems, tissue paper, etc.)

### Learning Experiences:

- Invite children to create a postcard from a place they visited this summer, a city/country they would like to travel one day, or an imaginary place.
- How would they describe this place? Does it have water? mountains? What is the setting – a city? beach? countryside? Are there special sights to see?
- Encourage children to create their postcards using photos from the travel brochures, magazines, and art materials. Would they like to add messages to the backs of the postcards?
- Ask children to tell you about their postcards.

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## Dark and Light Art

(Taken from [Curriculum for Twos, Light and Dark](#))

### Materials and Preparations:

- *Vincent's Colors* (or another picture book that shows how artists use dark and light colors; see Books to Share)
- Assorted art materials (paint, markers, crayons, construction paper, etc.)

### Learning Experiences:

- Share the book *Vincent's Colors* (or another book). As you show the pictures, ask children to decide whether the picture is light and bright, dark and shadowy, or has both light and dark parts. For example, *Sunflowers* is filled with light, while *Starry Night* is much darker overall with spots of light.
- Provide a variety of light and dark materials children can use to create their own artworks. Display the finished pieces in the room.
- As children look at each other's art around the room, help them discover and describe light and dark in the creations.

## Night Words

(Taken from [Curriculum for Pre-K, Everyday Places and Routines](#))

### Materials and Preparations:

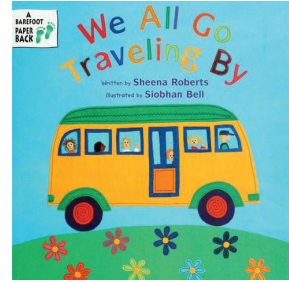
- Chart paper or length of butcher paper, marker
- Index cards
- Book rings
- Materials for a writing center

### Learning Experiences:

- Create a word wall with a length of butcher paper. Challenge children to think of words that pertain to their nightly routines, such as *dinner, bath, pajamas, sleep, dark, etc.*
- On the word wall, record the words children mention, pointing out each letter as you write it. Which words begin with the same letter? How many syllables are in each word? Do any of the words rhyme?
- Write words on index cards and put them on a book ring. Set up a writing center where interested children can practice writing the words on the ring. Add other words to the word wall that pertain to how children start and end their day.

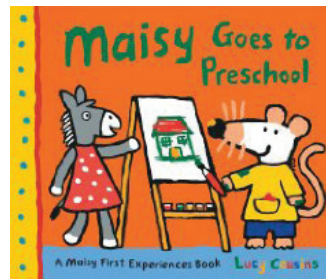
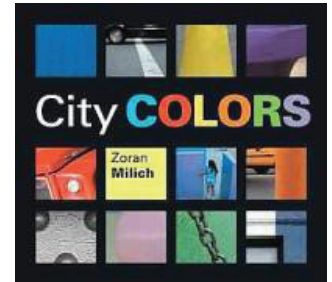
**Adaptation:** To make this more challenging, invite children to draw pictures representing each of the words (for example, a picture of someone sleeping, someone in their pajamas, someone eating dinner, etc.) and then write the words that describe what is happening in their pictures.

## Books to Share



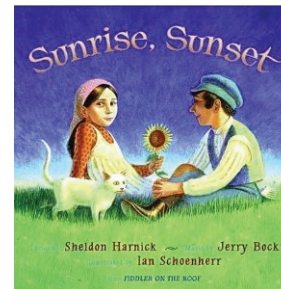
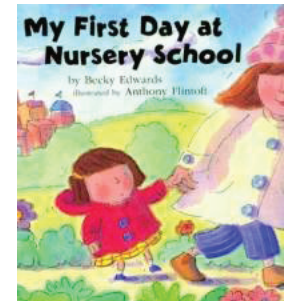
We All Go Traveling  
by Sheena Roberts

City Colors by  
Zoran Milich



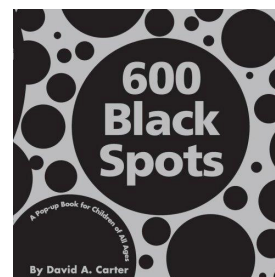
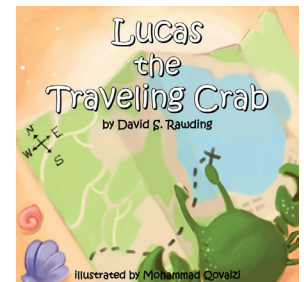
Maisy Goes to  
Preschool by  
Lucy Cousins

My First Day at  
Nursery School by  
Becky Edwards



Sunrise, Sunset by  
Sheldon Harnick

Lucas the Traveling  
Crab by David S.  
Rawding



600 Black Dots: A Pop-up  
Book for Children of All  
Ages by David A. Carter

## Classroom Energizers

Do you have a helpful classroom tip? It could be a way to communicate with families, manage transitions, save planning time, or other useful idea that works for you. Or maybe you'd like to show us our curriculum in action in your classroom! Share your ideas with us and you could win a \$25 HighReach Learning gift certificate. Just email your ideas to [classroomenergizers@highreach.com](mailto:classroomenergizers@highreach.com). We will feature submitted entries each month in the Idea Toolbox.