

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



**Richard Scarry's  
Busy, Busy  
People**

Written and Illustrated by  
Richard Scarry

*Preschool edition*

**Overview of Book**

Follow Huckle Cat and Lowly Worm as they make their way through different places and scenes of everyday life and the busy, busy "people" that make everything "go"!

Genre: Picture book

**Vocabulary**

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Richard Scarry's Busy, Busy People* to introduce in your classroom:

repair                      construction  
harbor                      station

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

**Connecting with the  
HighScope Curriculum**

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to Learning  
Item A  
(Initiative and planning)

Social and Emotional  
Development Item G  
(Community)

Creative Arts Item AA  
(Pretend play)

Science and Technology  
Item EE (Tools and  
technology)

Social Studies Item FF  
(Knowledge of self and  
others)

**Reading Tips**

Since each page is rich with detail, vocabulary and discussion possibilities, take time to read with small groups of children before using the book with the whole group. Allow time for children to comment and ask questions. Ask children what they know about a particular page/setting, (the town, construction site, or harbor for example), what goes on there and who works there. Allow the conversations to flow as children have ideas to share.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

### Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Use the book by opening a page and have children decide which character to imitate for **transitions**.

Discuss the importance of the classroom jobs at **Greeting Time**. Ask children how each job helps make the classroom a community.

### Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Enhance the **Block Area** and **House Areas** by adding props and materials for children to re-create scenes from the book.

Add community helper titles to the **Book Area** for children to "research" different occupations from the book.

Add creative building materials to the **Art Area**. Examples include wood, pipe cleaners, and cardboard. Encourage 3D construction.

### Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Richard Scarry's Busy, Busy People*:

- What is your favorite busy activity at school?
- Which is your favorite job from the story? Why is that?
- What do you do to help out and be busy at home?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:**

website—  
[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### @ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Richard Scarry's Busy, Busy People* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While looking at the book and all the details inside with your child, comment about each scene and types of work you see. Ask your child questions like, "What do you think it'd be like to have this job?" or, "I wonder what it would be like to work (in the train station)?" Give your child plenty of time to answer. While on shopping errands or outings, draw your child's attention to any "scene" that is out of the ordinary. Ask questions to have your child recall details from the book. For example, "Look over there- a construction site. Remember the book? What busy people are there?"