

Read "The Case of the Broken Sidewalk"

Miss Jeanne's preschool class loved to visit the park near their school. One day, as they left the park, Lucy tripped on a rough spot in the sidewalk and fell. She scraped both her knees.

Miss Jeanne cleaned and bandaged Lucy's knees, and all the class gathered around her.

"The sidewalk's all broken," Peter said. "That's why Lucy fell. We've got to fix this sidewalk so kids don't get hurt!"

Lucy felt a little better. "Once I watched a sidewalk getting made. There was a cement truck, and workers were using tools to make the sidewalk smooth," she said.

Miss Jeanne said, "Taking care of the sidewalks is the job of city workers, like the people you saw, Lucy." Then she asked the children, "How do you think we could get their help with this sidewalk?"

"We could show them the broken sidewalk," said Peter.

"Lucy, you better show them your hurt knees," said Sarah.

"I know! Let's write them a letter!" said Megan.

Miss Jeanne wrote down all of the children's ideas. When they got back to class, she asked them to vote on what they wanted to do. Together they decided to write a letter to the mayor.

In the letter, they would tell her about the problem with the sidewalk.

One day, the class got a letter back. The mayor's letter thanked the children for being concerned about the sidewalk. The mayor also wrote that she would take note of their suggestions for fixing it. Miss Jeanne's students were so happy and proud.

Ask questions:

- Who did these kids worry about?
- Why did the kids decide to write a letter?
- What happened after they wrote the letter?
- If you wanted to fix something in your community, what would it be?
- What would you write in your letter?