



# Goal Directed Behavior

## ABOUT MORNINGSIDE CENTER

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's evidence-validated programs engage young people in learning essential social and emotional skills and help educators build productive and respectful schools. The 4Rs Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, and problem-solving, adding depth to literacy instruction.

# Envisioning Our Dream Community

By: The 4Rs



## Envisioning our Dream Community

### Note to the teacher:

*Envisioning our Dream Community* is an excerpt from The 4Rs™ [Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution] *Teaching Guide for Grade 2, Unit 1, Building Community*, p. 8.

This activity is based on one of our favorite book selections, *The Big Orange Splot* by Daniel Manus Pinkwater [Scholastic, 1977]. It's inexpensive and a strong addition to your library.

**Time:** 40 minutes; or read the story one day and do follow-up activities another.

**Materials:** chalk board and chalk; drawing materials

Read *The Big Orange Splot* aloud to the class. Make a T-chart on the board.

- Ask for ideas on how our classroom is like the neighborhood portrayed in the story and write them in one column.
- Ask how our classroom is different from the neighborhood in the story and write those ideas in the other column.
- Discuss: Does the story give us ideas about how we'd like our classroom to be?

Mr. Plumbean had a dream that he expressed in the way he decorated his house. Ask the children: What are your dreams? If you could be anything you wanted, what would you be?

Distribute drawing materials and ask the children to draw houses that express their dreams. Have them share their drawings with their neighbor, and ask for a few volunteers to share their dream.

Collect the drawings and make a mural: "Our Dream Community." You could line up the houses around the walls of the classroom as if they were houses in a neighborhood.

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