

Episode: “Mail Team”

Albie works as part of a team to get a lot of letters ready to be mailed. When she doesn't like the job she's given, she finds a way to make it fun and learns that everyone's role was important in getting the job done.

Activity

Materials:

- Envelopes
- Markers or other drawing supplies
- Tape
- Scrap paper
- Glue sticks
- Toy cars or other small toys or figurines

Steps:

1. Watch “Mail Team,” and talk about how Albie feels when she gets her job as envelope sealer. Why is Albie upset when she gets her job?
2. Talk to your child about how the mail works. Show them your mailbox or mail slot and some letters that you've received or are going to send.
3. Point out the address (writing that was Rosie's job!) and the stamp (that was Huggy's job) and the seal (Albie's important job). This is a great opportunity to teach a child their address.
4. Show your child how an unfolded envelope creates the shape of a house. Find the triangular shape of the roof and the square or rectangular shape of the house's walls.
5. Use drawing supplies like markers or crayons and scrap paper to add windows, doors and designs to your envelopes to make them look like houses or other buildings in your neighborhood.
6. Once you have a few different buildings, tape them to a wall or line them up on the floor to create a neighborhood or street. You can even tape them to small blocks or something sturdy to make them stand up vertically.
7. Use toy cars or other small toys, or even “walking fingers” to journey around





your neighborhood. Imagine you are delivering the mail that Albie was helping prepare. You can even cut tiny letters for your child to use in their deliveries.

8. Work as a team with your child in “sharing the road” and divvying up the pretend mail deliveries. Model cooperation and teamwork and point out that you are sharing and working together, just like Albie and her friends.

Tips

- Very young children will likely scribble on their houses. That’s great! Encourage them to share with you what they are thinking about when they draw.
- Collaborate with your child and start them off by drawing some windows and doors of your own.
- Consider cutting some geometric shapes from scrap paper for your child to glue onto the houses.
- You can make the imaginative play part of this activity as minimal or elaborate as you want. Simply tape the houses low on a wall to create a neighborhood, or create streets and roads on a big piece of butcher paper and rig your houses up so they stand by taping them to a block or sturdy object.

In this activity, your child:

- Drew shapes, patterns, or designs inspired by houses
- Explored mail and materials in a new way
- Used their imaginations to incorporate their artworks into their creative play

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

- Albie visits friends who work as a team to make sidewalk chalk. Have you ever been part of a team? What was your role? What were the most fun and challenging parts of being a teammate?
- What do you imagine the letters we’re delivering to these houses say?

Albie's Elevator

Keep Going!

Send a Letter

Send a letter to a friend, teacher or relative. Transcribe your child's words and allow them to draw on the letter or envelope. Let them help add the stamp and seal the letter, just like Albie. Take a trip to the mailbox and let them drop their letter in!

At-home Post Office

Put a clothespin on a string on the doorknob of different rooms in your home—think of them as your mailboxes. Leave each other letters and notes, clipping them in the clothespin for the recipient to find.

Watch “A Postcard for Huggy”

There's another Albie episode about mail! Watch “A Postcard for Huggy,” and try making your own postcard.

Vocabulary

Envelope: A piece of paper that's folded to keep a card or letter safe in the mail

Mail: Letters, messages and packages that are sent through the post office

Teamwork: Working together with other people to make something happen





Related Resources

More At-Home Activities

Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by *Albie's Elevator*.

Children's Books with Related Themes

Check out these children's books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

Delivering Your Mail: A Book about Mail Carriers by Ann Owen

An inside look at the important job of a mail carrier, how their trucks work and how the mail gets delivered no matter what.

That Fruit Is Mine! by Anuska Allepuz

A story about teamwork as animals work together to share their fruit.