

Finley's Fantastic Community Helpers Adventure!

Materials Needed:

- Pictures or simple videos of community helpers (firefighter, police officer, doctor, teacher, mail carrier, construction worker, librarian)
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue stick
- Optional: Dress-up clothes related to community helpers (e.g., a toy firefighter helmet, a toy doctor's kit)
- Optional: Puppets or small figurines representing community helpers
- A large sheet of paper or whiteboard for brainstorming

Lesson Activities:

Part 1: Introduction - Who Helps Us? (15-20 minutes)

Hello Finley! Today, we're going on an exciting adventure to learn about some very important people in our community. These people are called **Community Helpers**! They do amazing jobs to help everyone, including you and me.

Spark Your Curiosity:

- "Finley, can you think of someone who helps us when we are sick?" (Discuss doctors/nurses)
- "Who helps put out fires and keeps us safe?" (Discuss firefighters)
- "Who helps us learn new things every day?" (Discuss teachers)

Show Finley pictures or short, friendly videos of various community helpers. As you show each one, ask:

- "What job do you think this person does?"
- "What tools or special clothes might they use?"
- "How do they help people in our neighborhood?"

On a large sheet of paper or whiteboard, write down "Community Helpers" in the middle. As you discuss each helper, you can draw a simple picture or write their name around the central title, creating a web.

Part 2: Helper Spotlight & Creative Exploration (20-25 minutes)

Now it's time to get creative and really think about what these helpers do!

Activity 1: Helper Charades or "What Am I?"

- Take turns acting out a community helper using gestures and sounds (no words!), and let Finley guess who it is. Or, describe a helper's job and tools, and have Finley guess.
- If you have dress-up clothes or puppets, encourage Finley to use them!

Activity 2: Draw Your Favorite Helper

- Ask Finley: "Which community helper do you find the most interesting or which one would you

like to be for a day?"

- Provide construction paper and art supplies. Ask Finley to draw a picture of their chosen community helper doing their job. Encourage Finley to include details like their uniform, tools, and where they might work.
- While Finley is drawing, talk about the helper: "What is so special about what they do? How do they make our community a better place?"

Part 3: Application - A Big Thank You! (15-20 minutes)

Community helpers work hard for us, and it's nice to show them we appreciate them!

Activity: Create a Thank-You Card

- "Finley, let's choose one community helper we learned about today (or one you know, like your teacher or a local librarian) and make a special thank-you card for them."
- Provide construction paper, crayons, markers, scissors, and glue.
- Help Finley fold the paper to make a card.
- Guide Finley to draw a picture on the front of the card related to the helper.
- Inside, you can help Finley write a simple message like "Thank you for helping us!" or Finley can dictate what to write. Finley can also draw more pictures inside.
- **Application Idea:** If possible and appropriate, you could even deliver this card to a local fire station, library, or mail it to a doctor's office (with their permission, of course!). This makes the act of appreciation very real.

Part 4: Wrap-up & Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Let's talk about all the amazing things we learned!

- "Finley, can you name three community helpers we talked about today?"
- "What's one important thing a [chosen helper, e.g., firefighter] does?"
- "Why is it good to have community helpers in our neighborhood?"
- Praise Finley's participation, creativity, and thoughtful answers. Review the "Community Helpers" web you created earlier.

Extension Ideas (for another day or if Finley is super engaged):

- Build a "community" with blocks and have toy figures act as community helpers.
- Read books about different community helpers.
- Take a walk in your neighborhood and point out places where community helpers work (e.g., fire station, school, clinic, post office).
- Set up a pretend play area (e.g., a doctor's office, a grocery store with a cashier helper).

Great job today, Super Helper Finley! You learned so much about the wonderful people who make our community a great place to live.