



# Community Helpers Instructions



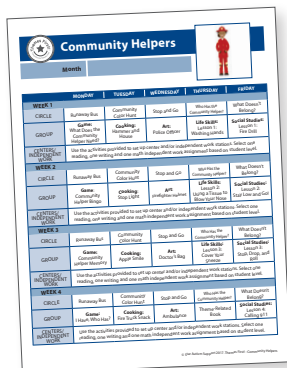
## Understanding Your Theme Unit

The Community Helpers theme unit includes a variety of fun and engaging activities to use during circle, centers, independent work, and group activity times. The focus of this theme unit includes:

- Community helper-related activities, games, vocabulary words, and concepts
- Art and cooking activities with a community helper theme
- Center and independent work activities in math, reading, and writing
- Social studies: fire safety and calling 911
- Life skills: healthy habits at school
- Learning in groups
- Working with a partner

Use this theme as part of a comprehensive behavioral curriculum (The STAR Program). All students will benefit from direct instruction focused on teaching essential skills in receptive and expressive language, academics and social/play skills. The activities in the theme unit can assist instructors with generalizing and expanding skills students have learned in more structured teaching sessions. All activities provided throughout the theme unit address a wide range of student skill levels.

## A Few Easy Steps for Successful Theme Unit Instruction



1. Follow the suggested **Monthly Calendar** for activities focusing on community helper-themed vocabulary and concepts.
2. Introduce the theme unit concepts during **Circle and Group Activities**. Using the lessons provided, teach students important vocabulary and concepts that will be used in centers and independent work.
3. **Centers and Independent Work** activities are provided for a wide range of student skill levels. Activities are a follow-up to the concepts, vocabulary, and ideas presented during circle and group activities. The independent work activities can also be used during group teaching times.
4. **Group Activities** incorporate art, cooking, games, life skills, science, and social studies. Activities introduce and practice the concepts taught throughout the theme unit.
5. The **Monthly Newsletter** guides parents through the current unit, with an option to include a personalized note from the instructor.

## Student Learning Outcomes

### Theme vocabulary:

- Community Helper Vocabulary
- Colors: red, green, yellow, blue, orange, and white
- Shapes: circle, square, hexagon, triangle, and star

### Community Helper Concepts:

- People and Places in Our Community
- Tools for Community Helpers
- Safe Communities

### Reading

- Letter matching and identification
- Phonics: beginning and short vowel sounds
- Theme vocabulary in words and sentences
- Theme comprehension
- Phonemics: word families
- Sight Words

### Math:

- Counting and one-to-one correspondence
- Geometry
- Money
- Time
- Sorting and patterns
- Comparing and classifying
- Adding and subtracting
- Measurement

### Writing:

- Color, cut, and glue
- Trace, copy, and write words and sentences
- Presentation of ideas in pictures and writing

### Social Studies: Fire Safety, Calling 911

**Social Skills:** Turn-taking, waiting, sharing, asking questions, commenting, working in a group

**Life Skills:** Safety, listening, patience, following instructions

## Utilizing Learning Objectives

Each activity, lesson, worksheet, and task opens with a learning objective that clearly outlines the skills and concepts reinforced in that specific piece of material. All objectives work off of learner-based outcomes in regard to students' individual skill levels. Learning objectives can be used to reinforce state and district educational standards and individual IEP goals; they can also help maintain documentation of the skills and tasks students exercise and master during these activities.

## Circle

The circle activities and visuals include icons for calendar, songs, song-books and themed activities.

It is important to have a structured circle routine. View the "Circle Routine: Ideas and Visuals" in the STAR media center. Once the circle routine and visual supports are in place, add more fun to circle time by introducing new themes. Each theme unit includes circle song icons, books, and activities.

NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
<p><b>CALENDAR DATE ICONS</b> Icons for each day of the week to identify the date. Includes repeating patterns. Contains 31 days so you can customize the unit to suit your specific timeframe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Truck, Fire Truck, Tractor, Police Car</li> </ul>
<p><b>SONG ICONS/SONG BOOKS</b> Support student participation by providing song choice icons and visual supports for each song.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who Am I?</li> <li>• What Do I Do?</li> </ul>
<p><b>CIRCLE ACTIVITIES</b> Use these activities to introduce the theme and teach key vocabulary and concepts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runaway Bus</li> <li>• Community Color Hunt</li> <li>• Stop and Go</li> <li>• Who Has the Community Helper?</li> <li>• What Doesn't Belong?</li> </ul>
<p><b>THEME-RELATED VIDEOS</b> Use the following videos during circle to introduce the concepts taught in this theme unit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See circle activities page for a link to videos.</li> <li>• We recommend that you preview the YouTube videos prior to student viewing to ensure appropriate content as video links can break or change. Also be advised ads may appear within the videos.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THEME VOCABULARY</b> Introduce new vocabulary and concepts through written and visual supports.</p> <p><b>People:</b> farmer, firefighter, mail carrier, nurse, police officer, custodian, teacher, librarian, doctor, dentist, bus driver, garbage collector, veterinarian, construction worker, pilot, store clerk, waiter, waitress</p> <p><b>Places:</b> neighborhood, grocery store, hospital, post office, school, farm, library, swimming pool, fire station, police station</p>	<p><b>Tools:</b> tractor, barn, cow, rake, fire truck, fire helmet, fire hydrant, hoses, ladder, mail truck, mailbox, letter, airplane, police car, stop sign, badge, mop, broom, bucket, chalkboard, ruler, books, bus, construction worker helmet, hammer, saw, tape measure, house, partially-built house, stethoscope, thermometer, scale, bandaid, first aid kit, doctor's mask, teeth, toothbrush, garbage truck, trash can, recycle container</p> <p><b>Colors:</b> red, yellow, green, blue, orange, white</p> <p><b>Shapes:</b> circle, square, hexagon, triangle, star</p>

## Group Activities

A variety of group activities are included that incorporate cooking, art, games, life skills, science, and social studies.

Small group activities are a great way to build a positive classroom climate and teach social skills. Providing structure during these activities will create clear expectations for students and promote independence. Refer to the Small Group Activity routine ideas located in the STAR Media Center for additional ideas.

NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
<b>GAME: WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY HELPER NEED?</b> Students work together to sort various items/tools that a community helper would need to do their job.	What Does the Community Helper Need?
<b>GAME: COMMUNITY HELPER BINGO</b> Students create their own bingo board and play community helper bingo.	Community Helper Bingo
<b>GAME: COMMUNITY HELPER MEMORY</b> Students play the memory game in small or large groups.	Community Helper Memory Game
<b>GAME: I HAVE, WHO HAS?</b> Play a game about community helpers and the important tools they need to do their job.	I Have, Who Has?
<b>ART: POLICE OFFICER</b> Students make a police officer using different shapes and colors.	Police Officer
<b>ART: FIREFIGHTER HELMET</b> Students follow directions to make their own helmet.	Firefighter Helmet
<b>ART: DOCTOR'S BAG</b> Students make their own kit to use during pretend play.	Doctor's Bag
<b>ART: AMBULANCE</b> Students make an ambulance using different shapes and colors.	Ambulance
<b>COOKING: HAMMER AND HOUSE</b> Students make a hammer out of pretzel sticks and cheese cubes and a house of bread.	Hammer and House Recipe
<b>COOKING: TRAFFIC LIGHT</b> Students make their own traffic light using a frosted graham cracker and M&M's®.	Traffic Light Recipe
<b>COOKING: APPLE SMILE</b> Students make a "smile" out of red apple slices and marshmallows.	Apple Smile Recipe
<b>COOKING: FIRE TRUCK SNACK</b> Students make a fire truck out of a graham cracker, frosting, and other foods.	Fire Truck Recipe
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES:</b> Important safety skills discussed and practiced during engaging activities.	<b>Lesson 1</b> – Fire Drill <b>Lesson 2</b> – Stay Low and Go <b>Lesson 3</b> – Stop, Drop, and Roll <b>Lesson 4</b> – Calling 911
<b>LIFE SKILLS: HEALTHY HABITS AT SCHOOL</b> Help students learn important skills to keep themselves and others healthy at school.	1. Washing Hands 2. Using a Tissue to Blow Your Nose 3. Cover Your Sneeze
<b>THEME RELATED BOOKS:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>I Want to be a Firefighter</i> by Daniel Liebman</li> <li>2. <i>Froggy Goes to the Doctor</i> by Jonathon London</li> <li>3. <i>Officer Buckle and Gloria</i> by Peggy Rathmann</li> <li>4. <i>Bunny Mail</i> by Rosemary Wells</li> </ol>	

## Centers and Independent Work

File folder tasks, activities, and worksheets are included for math, reading and writing at three different levels of difficulty.

Students benefit from structured centers and independent work time. Review the Centers and/or the Independent Work routine ideas and visuals in the STAR Media Center.

Activities for centers and independent work follow a consistent format and address learning objectives/standards in reading, math, and writing. Each new theme will follow the same format to provide consistency of instruction for the student to build on previously learned skills. The following table is an overview of the format for each lesson.

CURRICULUM AREA	PRINTABLE FORMS	LEARNING FOCUS OBJECTIVES/STANDARD
<b>READING</b> <b>Level 1:</b> File Folder Tasks (FF) <b>Level 2 &amp; 3:</b> File Folder Tasks (FF), Activities and Worksheets (WS) and Books.  <b>Note:</b> Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a dry erase marker and eraser.	<b>Level 1</b> FF 1.1 Community Helper Colors FF 1.2 Matching Tools FF 1.3 Match the Community Helpers FF 1.4 Community Sorting 1	Readiness: Matching Colors Theme Vocabulary: Matching Theme Vocabulary: Matching Theme Comprehension: Sorting
	<b>Level 2</b> FF 2.1 Farm Alphabet A-H FF 2.2 Farm Alphabet I-Q FF 2.3 Farm Alphabet R-Z WS 2.4 Community Helper Vocabulary 1 WS 2.5 Community Helper Sentences 1 Book 2.6 People in our Community FF 2.7 Community Sorting 2	Phonics: Letter Identification 1 Phonics: Letter Identification 2 Phonics: Letter Identification 3 Theme Vocabulary Words Theme Vocabulary Sentences Theme Comprehension: Book Theme Comprehension: Sorting
	<b>Level 3</b> WS 3.1 Beginning Sounds 1 (f,s,r,p,b) WS 3.2 Beginning Sounds 2 (f,s,r,p,b) FF 3.3 Firefighter's Ladder Rhymes WS 3.4 Community Helper Vocabulary 2 WS 3.5 Community Helper Sentences 2 WS 3.6 Community Helper Sight Words Book 3.7 In my Community Book 3.8 When I Grow Up	Phonics: Beginning Sounds 1 Phonics: Beginning Sounds 2 Phonics: Rhyming Theme Vocabulary Words Vocabulary Sentences Sight Words Theme Comprehension Book 1 Theme Comprehension Book 2
<b>MATH</b> <b>Level 1:</b> File Folder Tasks (FF) <b>Level 2 &amp; 3:</b> File Folder Tasks (FF), Activities and Worksheets (WS)  <b>Note:</b> Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a dry erase marker and eraser.	<b>Level 1</b> FF 1.1 Community Number Matching FF 1.2 Shape Matching FF 1.3 Community Money 1 FF 1.4 Community Time 1 FF 1.5 Community Sorting 1 FF 1.6 Community Helpers Patterning 1	Counting and Matching Geometry Matching Money Matching Time Matching Sorting Pattern Matching
	<b>Level 2</b> FF 2.1 Count the Community Helpers FF 2.2 Counting Nails WS 2.3 Comparing Community Numbers 1 WS 2.4 Community Shapes FF 2.5 Community Helpers Patterning 2 WS 2.6 Community Money 2 WS 2.7 Community Time 2 WS 2.8 Community Sorting 2	Counting Objects to 5 Counting Objects to 10 Comparing Numbers to 10 Geometry Patterns Money Time Classification
	<b>Level 3</b> WS 3.1 Community Counting WS 3.2 Comparing Community Numbers 2 WS 3.3 Adding at the Vet's Office FF 3.4 Community Helpers Patterning 3 WS 3.5 Spin and Graph FF 3.6 Community Money 3 WS 3.7 Community Time 3 FF 3.8 Community Measurement	Counting Objects to 30 Compare Numbers to 30 Add/Subtract Patterns Geometry Money Time Measurement

## Centers and Independent Work

CURRICULUM AREA	PRINTABLE FORMS	LEARNING FOCUS OBJECTIVES/STANDARD
<b>WRITING</b> <b>Level 1, 2 &amp; 3:</b> Worksheets (WS) and Activities. <b>Note:</b> Worksheets can be laminated and reused by providing students with a dry erase marker and eraser.	<b>Level 1</b> WS 1.1 Color the Community Pictures 1 WS 1.2 Community Shapes 1 WS 1.3 Glue the Tools in the Toolbox	Coloring Within the Lines Coloring Within the Lines Matching Shapes and Coloring Within the Lines
	<b>Level 2</b> WS 2.1 Color the Community Pictures 2 WS 2.2 Community Shapes 2 WS 2.3 Community Helper Color by Number WS 2.4 Community Helper Dot-to-Dot WS 2.5 Community Helper Letters	Tracing and Coloring Tracing and Coloring Tracing Numbers and Coloring Within the Lines Tracing Numbers and Coloring Within the Lines Tracing Letters
	<b>Level 3</b> WS 3.1 Community Words 1 WS 3.2 Numbers and Number Words WS 3.3 Community Helper Sentences WS 3.4 Community Words 2	Tracing, Copying and Writing Vocabulary Words Tracing, Copying and Writing Number Words Writing Theme Related Sentences Presentation of Ideas in Print

READING  
MATH  
WRITING