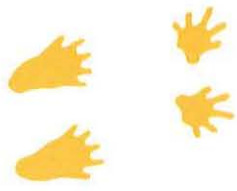




Meeting 15 My Community Friends

Here are three fun activities that teach Eager Beavers about neighborhood helpers. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Eager Beavers or create your own activities.





MEETING LENGTH

60-80 MINUTES

- Opening (5 minutes)
- Story Time (10 minutes)
- Activities (40-60 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

Opening

Using a beaver puppet, greet each of the children by name and welcome them all to Eager Beavers. Have the children sit in a circle.

5

MINUTES



Listen to a story about neighborhoods.

CHIP COMPLETED

MY
COMMUNITY
FRIENDS



Story Time

EXPLORING OUR COMMUNITY

10

MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Book about neighborhoods

Tell the children that this week you will be talking about neighborhoods. Explain that a neighborhood is all of the homes, stores, libraries, fire stations, churches, and parks that are close to where they live. Then read a book about neighborhoods such as *Helpers in My Community* (Kalman, 2011), *My Neighborhood* (Bullard, 2002), *Franklin's Neighborhood* (Bourgeois, 1999) or a book of your choice. Ask the children who are some of the people they know or who work in their neighborhoods. Now share with the children that they will be learning about people that might be in their neighborhoods.





The following activities fulfill the requirement for My World I, which is to complete the My Community Friends chip.

Neighborhood Helpers Activity Centers

30
MINUTES

1 ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Prepare four or five activity centers that replicate a neighborhood location (prepare more if you have a large club). Local businesses may be willing to donate or loan items for you to use. Remember that children this age have great imaginations, so the centers don't have to look like the real locations.

At one center the children can meet the neighborhood grocer at her store. You can provide name tags or aprons for some of the children to wear and pretend to be employees. Other children can shop using small baskets for their groceries. The groceries can be staples you and the other parents bring from home. Also, have a check-out counter, play money, and grocery bags.

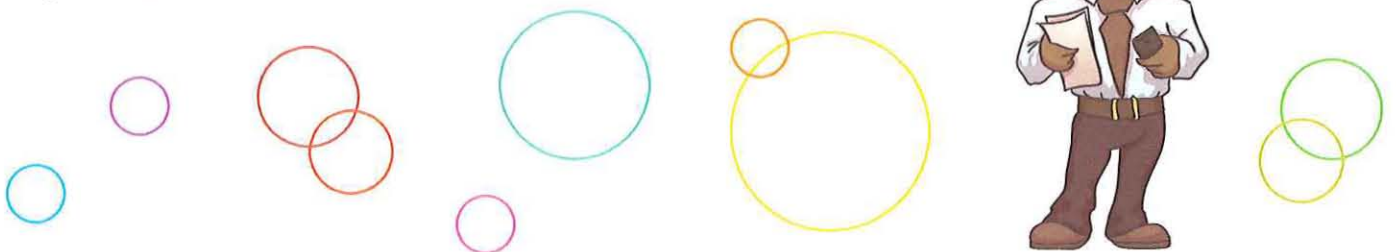
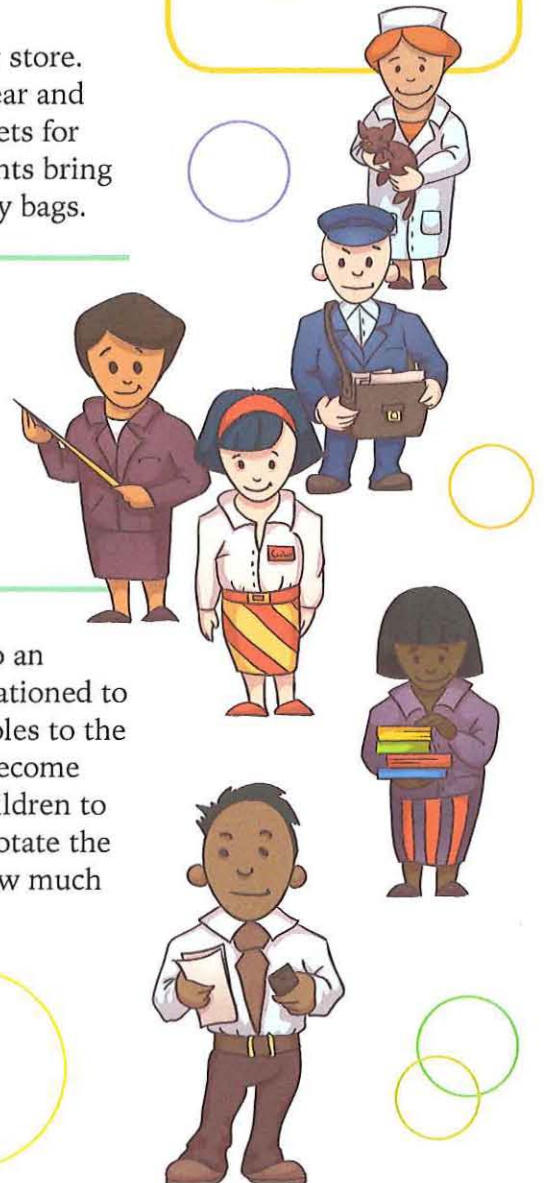
MATERIALS NEEDED

- Various items to create the neighborhood helpers activity centers

Suggestions for additional activity centers:

- Meeting the librarian
- Meeting the postal worker
- Meeting the bank teller
- Meeting the teacher
- Meeting the veterinarian

Divide the children into small groups and then assign each group to an activity center. At each center you should have one or two adults stationed to supervise. The adults at each center should be prepared to assign roles to the children, explain what they can do at the activity center, and even become involved in the role playing. Additionally, you can encourage the children to tell one of their new neighborhood friends that Jesus loves them. Rotate the groups through all or some of the activity centers, depending on how much time you have.





ACTIVITY

2

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Sheets of card stock folded in half, one per child
- Crayons, washable markers, or stickers

Community Helper Thank You Card

10
MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Write "Thank you for making my neighborhood a better place!" inside each greeting card.

Ask the children what the neighborhood helpers from the activity centers in Activity 1 do to make their neighborhood a better place (deliver mail, read stories during library story time, keep pets well).

Then ask the children what they can do to make their neighborhood a better place (smile and say hello, pick up trash, don't litter, don't leave toys on the sidewalk). Remind them that thanking people for what they do is also a way to make their neighborhoods nice places to live.

Now have the children make a thank you card to give to a community helper in their neighborhood. Give each child a card with a blank front. To decorate the front of the card you might have the children trace their hands or use stickers.

Thank you for making
my neighborhood
a better place!



Closing

5
MINUTES

Gather the children into a circle and ask

them a specific question about what they learned during Eager Beavers. Say a prayer and then ask for an Eager Beaver to volunteer to pray for the group. Rejoin the rest of the Adventurers for the closing program.



Chip: My Community Friends



Requirement: My World I