

Opening the Gift

Vol. 24 No. 1

Heroes, Helpers, and Me!

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Whose Hands Are These? A Community Helper Guessing Book by Miranda Paul

Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do by Kathryn Heling & Deborah Hembrook

Lola Goes To Work: A Nine To Five Therapy Dog by Marcia Goldman

All Kinds of Friends by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly

Stand Tall! A Book About Integrity by Cheri J. Meiners

What Does It Mean To Be Kind? by Rana DiOrio

Helpers In Your Neighborhood by Shira Evans

People In My Neighborhood by Shelly Lyons

Who Will I Be? by Abby Huntsman

Hero Mom by Melinda Hardin

Hero Dad by Melinda Hardin

Thankful by Eileen Spinelli

Nursery Rhyme: Humpty Dumpty
Songs & Fingerplays to Share

"Let's All Clap Our Hands Together" from *Can a Cherry Pie Wave Goodbye?* by Hap Palmer

Superhero, Superhero Turn Around

Superhero, superhero turn around
Superhero, superhero touch the ground.
Superhero, superhero put on your suit.
Superhero, superhero put on your boots.
Superhero, superhero jump up high.
Superhero, superhero fly, fly, FLY!

This Little Helper

This helper builds our houses. (thumb)
This helper brings our mail. (pointer)
This helper teaches the children.
(middle finger)
And this one has groceries to sell.
(ring finger)
And this little helper, yes, it's me
(pinky finger)
When I grow up, (Stretch arms above head)
Which will I be? (Point to self)

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9-1-1

tune: *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

9-1-1 is who you call,
Who you call, who you call,
9-1-1 is who you call,
When you need some help.
Doctors, policemen and firemen too,
Firemen too, firemen too,
Doctors, policemen and firemen too,
Are there to help you.
Call only in an emergency,
Emergency, emergency,
Call only in an emergency,
And they'll send help to you.

Community Helpers Song

tune: *"The Farmer in the Dell"* – add verses as you'd like

The teachers teach the kids,
The teachers teach the kids,
Heigh-ho, they help us so,
The teachers teach the kids.

The firefighters put out the fires...
The crossing guards help us cross...
The librarians find us books...
The barbers cut our hair...
The dentists check our teeth...
The doctors keep us well...
The grocers sell us food...
The bakers bake us bread...
The farmers grow our food...
The garbagemen take the trash...
The mail carriers deliver the mail...

More Books to Share:

Firefighters! Speeding! Spraying! Saving! by Patricia Hubbell

Check It Out! Reading, Finding, Helping by Patricia Hubbell

Police: Hurrying! Helping! Saving! by Patricia Hubbell

Amazing Animal Helpers by John Townsend

The Breaking News by Sarah Lynne Reul

My Dad by Anthony Browne

My Mom by Anthony Browne

My Brother by Anthony Browne

Preschool To the Rescue by Judy Sierra

Neighborhood Helpers by Jennifer Blizin Gillis

Teacher! Sharing, Helping, Caring by Patricia Hubbell

Hooray For Our Heroes! a Sesame Street Book by Sarah Albee



Activity Ideas:

Super Sundaes: Let each child create a perfect ice cream sundae fit for a hungry hero by presenting him/her with various toppings like colored sprinkles, M&M's, nuts (if there are no allergies), chopped bananas and strawberries (or other favorite berries), and chocolate fudge or caramel sauce.

familythemedays.ca

The Hero in Me: Give children an opportunity to think about times in their own lives when they faced a challenge in order to help someone. Bring in an empty picture frame at least 8" x 10" large, and remove the glass and backing. Seat children in a circle and pass the frame around. Encourage each child to look through the frame and describe how he or she went out of the way to come to someone's aid. For example, "I was helpful when I made friends with the new kid," or "I was helpful when John fell off his bike and I brought him to the nurse." Encourage others in the circle to describe helpful qualities about the child in the frame. Make sure each child gets a hearty round of applause!

adapted from scholastic.com



Book of the Month:

Loose Parts 4: Inspiring 21st Century Learning by Lisa Daly & Miriam Beloglovsky

PTC 372.21 D

Loose parts are natural or synthetic found, bought, or upcycled materials—acorns, hardware, stones, aluminum foil, fabric scraps, for example—that children can move, manipulate, control, and change within their play. Loose parts capture children's curiosity, give free rein to their imagination, and encourage creativity.

In the newest installment of the wildly popular, award-winning Loose Parts series, Lisa Daly and Miriam Beloglovsky focus on including families and competency building. With inspiring full-color photographs Loose Parts 4 is organized around competencies and life skills children need for success in the future: knowingness, engagement, risk, connections, leadership, innovative thinking, and creativity.

Lisa and Miriam explain the value of loose parts, detail how to integrate loose parts into the environment and children's play, and



Road to Reading Tip:

HCPL 24/7! The library website is open around the clock at www.hcplonline.org with books, movies, music, games and family activities. There's always something new: be sure to check out TumbleMath! TumbleMath has the most comprehensive collection of math stories available anywhere – all presented with animation, narration, and sound to create a compelling and enticing story book for students of all ages. The books are accompanied by lesson plans, educational games, and even quizzes. You must have an HCPL library card to access TumbleMath – sign up for a card [here](#).