

BECKER'S® People at Work Set Talking Points and Extension Strategies



This set is a great way to introduce or reinforce occupations of people in your community. While learning about community roles, children can see many possibilities available to them. Invite families to send in photographs of the work they do so all children feel included in conversations on this topic.

Use the themes to introduce new dress ups and props in your dramatic play area. Set up a vet's office, an artist studio, a science lab, a business office, etc. Encourage children to use blocks, career figures, and props in the block area to create scenes pretending to carry out the work of people in their neighborhood and beyond. Pair these with children's books and community helper puppets to further extend their play.

Some Key Ideas When Talking about Jobs and Work People Do

- People work in a variety of settings and help the community in many ways.
- Some jobs require uniforms.
- Some workers do their jobs outdoors.
- Some jobs require special vehicles.
- Tools are used in many jobs. Create lists of tools used by doctors, teachers, artists, scientists, and construction workers.
- Introduce new vocabulary such as occupation, skills, career, uniform, boss, employee, job interview. Encourage children to use these terms when they act out "people at work" in the dramatic play area.
- Many jobs require people to work together. Encourage children to develop their social skills when they take on roles and collaborate with each other.



Here is a teacher helping the children with drawing and cutting.

- How does your teacher help you in the classroom?
- What do you see in the teacher's hand? I wonder what he might be drawing.
- What other things does your teacher do with you and your friends at school?



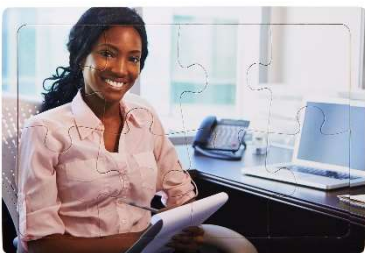
Police officers are community helpers. They have a job to protect us and keep us safe.

- Are these officers indoors or outdoors in this picture? How can you tell?
- If you look at the top of the car you can see the lights that flash when police officers are in a hurry. Why do you think they put on the lights?
- I can see the badges on their uniforms. Do you know anyone else who wears a badge?



Firefighters are community helpers. How do they help the people in your community?

- Wow! Look at the bright fire truck. What colors do you see on the fire engine?
- I see the firefighter wearing a heavy coat to protect her body when she is fighting a fire. What other things do you see that protect her? I wonder what tools and equipment she uses to do her job?
- Firefighters must get dressed really fast when it's time to fight a fire. Show me what it looks like to get dressed fast!



Some adults work in offices and use tools such as computers and telephones at their desk.

- Do you know anyone who works in an office? What kinds of rules do you think they have in an office?
- I notice this office has lots of windows. Some big buildings in the city are called skyscrapers. I wonder if the office is in the city.
- I wonder how this woman gets to work. Maybe she takes the train or bus to commute to work. Have you ever taken a ride on a train or bus?



These two workers are chefs and work in a restaurant preparing the food for customers.

- Chefs wear special uniforms. What color is the uniform? Look at their hats. Chef's hats are called toques.
- I see colorful foods in their bowls. Can you name the vegetables they are preparing for the menu?
- Chefs use a recipe when they cook food. Have you ever helped your mommy or daddy cook? What kinds of food do you like to cook together?



Construction workers are builders. They work together to build new roads, buildings, bridges and other structures.

- What else do construction workers do?
- What do you see in the background behind these construction workers? I wonder if it's a skyscraper. How many floors do you think it will have when it's all done? Have you ever tried to build a skyscraper using our blocks?
- Construction workers wear uniforms to keep them safe. What colors are their safety vests?
- What do you notice on their heads?
- I see one worker with a tool belt. What tools do you think he keeps in there?



Animals have doctors called veterinarians. A veterinarian's job is to take care of animals and keep them healthy.

- Do you have any pets at home? Have you taken your dog or cat to the veterinarian for a check-up?
- What tool do you notice hanging around the veterinarian's neck? What is that used to check on the dog?



The cow says "moo". This farmer is checking on her cows.

- What is the cow eating?
- What colors do you notice on the cow's body? Are all cows black and white like this cow?
- Do you think there are other animals on the farm? Where might they be?
- Describe what this farmer is wearing. What would you wear if you worked on a farm?



There are many kinds of scientists. This scientist is working in her lab.

- What types of tools do you see the scientist using?
- Can you count the test tubes filled with colorful liquids?
- I notice some things on the scientist's head and face to protect her while she is working. What do you see that protects her?



Painting doesn't just happen in preschool. Adults like to paint too!

- Can you name all the colors on the artist's palette?
- What do you think the artist is painting on his canvas?
- What types of tools does an artist use?
- What other things besides brushes and a painter use to create a masterpiece?
- How do you think the artist cleans up when he is done painting?
- What types of things do you like to paint or draw?



These pilots fly airplanes. Some airplanes carry passengers and some carry cargo.

- Have you ever flown on an airplane? What was it like? What did you like best?
- Do you think flying an airplane is like driving a car? What's the same? What's different?
- Pilots wear badges on their uniform. What does the badge look like?
- There's an airplane behind the pilots. What parts of the airplane do you see?



Open wide and say "Ahh". A doctor's job is to take care of you so that you stay healthy and grow strong.

- What do you see around this doctor's neck? What does he use it for?
- The doctor is using a tongue depressor to look inside the girl's mouth. Why do you think this tool is called a tongue depressor?
- Hmm, I wonder if she has a sore throat. Has a doctor ever checked inside your mouth?
- What other things do doctors do to help us get well or stay healthy?

Additional Resources

[Spotlight on young children and social studies. NAEYC. \(Koralek, D. & Mindes, G. \(2006\)](#)

[PNC Grow Up Great Lesson Center Community Helpers](#)

Related Materials

Dramatic Play

AMT6	<u>My First Career Dress Up Set</u>
LCI4835	<u>Melissa & Doug Police Officer Dress Up</u>
LCI4834	<u>Melissa & Doug Fire Chief Dress Up</u>
LCI4839	<u>Melissa & Doug Doctor Dress Up</u>
LCI8500	<u>Melissa & Doug Pilot Dress Up</u>
LCI4837	<u>Melissa & Doug Construction Worker Dress Up</u>
LCI4838	<u>Melissa & Doug Chef Dress Up</u>
BSS911900	<u>Becker's "I'm a Scientist" Dramatic Play Kit</u>
BSS922000	<u>Becker's "I'm a Vet" Dramatic Play Kit</u>
R110GK	<u>Becker's Young Professionals Dress-Ups</u>
MTC319	<u>Career Puppet Set</u>
PL500	<u>Community Helpers Puppet Set</u>
LER0826	<u>Deluxe Lab Set</u>
LER9130	<u>Pretend and Play Work Belt Tool Set</u>

Block Corner

FF473	<u>My Little Town Block Set</u>
MTC138	<u>Career Figures</u>
G1121	<u>Wedgie Career People</u>
LCI4796	<u>Melissa & Doug Town Blocks Play Set</u>
G6717	<u>Community & Roadway Essentials</u>
G6716	<u>Community Buildings Set</u>
KM30	<u>Community Mini Vehicles</u>
LCI9391K	<u>Melissa & Doug Wooden Transportation Set</u>

Literacy Corner

573550K	<u>Community Helpers at Work Book Set</u>
978379134173613	<u>Artists Children Should Know</u>
357693	<u>Maybe Something Beautiful</u>
BSS315140	<u>Theme Book Set: Buildings</u>
CB5518XK	<u>Mini Masters Art Book Set</u>

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