

Everyday Heroes

Play-based learning is a developmentally appropriate best-practice for young children. Through **Everyday Heroes**, students learn about the concept of community and those who help in a community. From understanding who community helpers are to exploring the different types, this guide shows an array of ways where children can have fun learning about the everyday heroes right in their own backyard while enhancing their literacy skills. Follow these suggestions to create everyday heroes-themed centers in your early childhood classroom.

CONSTRUCTION SITE DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Dramatic play inspires imagination, develops speaking and listening skills, fosters social skills such as sharing and turn taking, and supports children to acquire new vocabulary. A dramatic play center should include a theme, props, and adult guidance to enhance language development. Also include environmental print such as signs, labels, and authentic writing opportunities.



SUGGESTED PROPS

- Construction worker outfit
- Wooden blocks
- Traffic cones
- Toy construction vehicles
- Block play traffic signs

RIF PRINTABLES

- Safety checklist
- Supply checklist
- Construction signs
- Worker of the Week certificate
- Building block challenge cards
- Caution sign
- Under Construction banner
- Operating hours sign
- Community helpers matching game



ADULT GUIDANCE: Use these suggested leveled questions and narrations to support children's play.

- **Level 1:** "Point to the hammer on your tool belt."
- **Level 2:** "What are you building?"
- **Level 3:** "How are you going to fix that road?"
- **Level 4:** "What might happen if there was a gap in the road?"
- "You are adding blocks to your building to make it taller."
- "It's time to announce the Worker of the Week and you chose [name] to win this award!"

WRITING CENTER

Young children benefit from exposure to different styles and purposes for writing. At your writing center include different types of paper and writing materials, a sound-spelling chart, and picture vocabulary cards. Help children see that writing has different purposes by providing examples of different types of writing such as friendly letters, storybooks, party invitations, and more.



RIF PRINTABLES

- Blueprint template
- Community helpers border sheet (with and without lines)
- Hard hat alphabet tracing



Designing a building on a blueprint is an important skill for any future architect or engineer! Using a blueprint template, design a new building. As a class, discuss some key elements to include (e.g., layout, dimensions, design features, purpose). Consider how these elements come together to create something special. Have students practice designing their own building on a blueprint using [RIF's Sound-Spelling Chart](#) and [Picture Vocabulary Cards](#).

NURSERY RHYME CENTER

Singing nursery rhymes help children develop phonological awareness which is important for developing phonics. Set up a center for children to sing their favorite nursery rhymes. Include the nursery rhyme, hand-made or printed displays, and puppets or props related to the nursery rhyme.



RIF PRINTABLES

- "Community Helpers" nursery rhyme
- "Community Helpers" puppets

