

Community Helpers**Wheels on the Bus****Age:** 12-18 months**Skills:** listening, language, gross motor, curiosity**Materials:**

Words and actions to song

Parent Tip: Your child loves to hear you sing and will try to sing along with you as you sing the "Wheels on the Bus", do some of the motions with your child to see if they can repeat the motions.

Song:

The wheels on the bus go round and round; round and round; round and round. The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town!

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep; beep, beep beep; beep, beep, beep. The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep; all through the town!

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish; swish, swish, swish; swish, swish, swish. The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish, all through the town!

The people on the bus go up and down; up and down; up and down. The people on the bus go up and down, all through the town!

**Community Helpers****Special Delivery****Age:** 24 -30 months**Skills:** language & communication, early writing, early reading, creative expression, self-concept**Materials:**

crayons, paper, envelopes

Prep: Set out the materials and be sure that there is mail in the mailbox for you and your child to get before you do this activity.



Activity: Walk with your two-year-old to get the mail from the mailbox. Let them open the box and pull out the mail. Talk with them about the different letters, magazines and flyers that you received today. Build their vocabulary by repeating the words and going to the mailbox each day. Some new words they can learn are mailbox, stamp, letters, magazine, etc. Next ask your child if they would like to draw (scribble) a picture to send to a family member. Provide the materials for them and watch them scribble up a storm. Scribbling is the first step in pre-writing. When they have finished help them fold the paper and place it into the envelope. Address it to a family member, let them help you put the stamp on the letter and then the two of you place it in the mailbox. It would be great if you can encourage the family member to send a picture and note back through the mail. Check the mail with your child as time allows.

Community Helpers**Age:** 30-36 months**Skills:** eagerness and curiosity, listening and understanding, communicating and speaking**Materials:**

Words to the song

Activity: Sing the song daily while driving home and talk about the community helpers that you see when you shop at the grocery store and drive around town.

Song: Oh, who are the people your neighborhood

In your neighborhood

In your neighborhood.

Oh, who are the people in your neighborhood,

The people that you meet each day.

Oh, the fireman is a person in your neighborhood,

In your neighborhood, in your neighborhood.

The Fireman is a person in your neighborhood,

A person that you meet each day.

Extension: Add verses with other people in the neighborhood; grocer, mail carrier, police officer, bus driver, baker, dentist, etc.

**Community Helpers****Mud Pie Bakery****Age:** 3,4, & 5 Year-Olds**Skills:** fine motor, gross motor, self help, exploration and discovery, creative expression**Materials:** Sand, water, plastic mixing bowls, spoons, other baking equipment for outdoor play, sign "Mud Pie Bakery" with items sold, tape, markers, paper

Preparation: Gather a variety materials from your kitchen that are child safe. Create an outdoor "Mud Pie Bakery" include water from easy to pour containers. Make mud pies with you child and invite the neighborhood children to be part of the bakery. Make a "Mud Pie Bakery" sign with your child, make up fun names for the items to sell such as Blue Bear Pie, Andy Apple Cookies, etc. Let your child practice printing and identifying letters.



Activity: Encourage your children to make mud pies, cookies, cakes and other delicious treats from their "Mud Pie Bakery".

Parent tip: Thrift shops have lots of fun items at affordable prices that you can include in the bakery.