Writing Assignments

Preview Activity:

Have the students create a community helper puppet out of a coloring page cut out and tape it to a popsicle stick. Then pass out simple, typed sentences that go along with each puppet. On the back of the puppet have them copy the sentence about their community helper that they were given. (Example: I am a firefighter, I put out fires.)

Authentic Writing Assignment:

Give your students a picture of an action that involves a community helper, or team of community helpers. Then tell them they have to create their own story for what they think has happened in the picture. This will work best in a large circle around a class easel, allowing one child to speak at a time and having only you do the writing for this story. This will help them use their critical thinking skills to think beyond what they can see, because they will have to put together what they know about each individual community helper and see which one would best fit the story.

Innovative Reading Note:

For this activity the students will use a box chart to categorize through drawing what building the helper of their choice works in, and then draw their helper in the box next to it. This will help them in identifying who the helpers are and where they work.

Processing Assignment:

This activity is the wrap up for the lesson, checking that all the children have understood what has been taught. Since our lessons are focused on community helpers and all the hard work they do, I think a good wrap up for the students would be to pick their “favorite” community helper and award them with a certificate that thanks them for being a great helper and says keep doing what you do. I would give them a template that looks like the one from the article we read, they would fill it in saying dear fireman, police officer, librarian, etc., thank you for all you have done for this community, I look up to you, todays date, and their name. They can then decorate the certificate as much as they desire.

Essential Questions:

* Which community helper is the most important to a community?
* What if there was only one police officer, one fire fighter, one garbage person etc. in every community, what would happen?
* Why does it take so many people to run a whole community?

Common Core:

* 3. With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
* 10. Actively engage in-group reading activities with purpose and understanding.