

# Labor Day Classroom Activities

## Infants (Birth–12 months)

### 1) Community Helper Sensory Basket (soft + safe)

**Materials:** soft fabric, baby-safe mirror, toy keys, chunky vehicles, board books about helpers

**How:** Babies explore items on a blanket; narrate what they touch.

**Teacher talk:** “Helpers help us. Thank you, helpers!”

### 2) Helper Sounds & Songs

**Materials:** shakers/drum

**How:** Sing simple songs (“The Wheels on the Bus,” “This Is the Way We...”) and add helper sounds (siren “woo-woo,” beep-beep).

**Teacher talk:** “Beep-beep! A truck helps our community.”

### 3) Handprint “Thank You” Art

**Materials:** washable paint, cardstock, wipes

**How:** One handprint with a note: “Thank you for helping our community!”

**Teacher talk:** “Your handprint is a gift.”

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## Young Toddlers (12–24 months)

### 4) Dress-Up Helper Bin

**Materials:** hats/vests (mail carrier, chef, doctor), toy phone, clipboard

**How:** Children try on items and do simple pretend play.

**Teacher talk:** “You’re helping! What do you do?”

### 5) Color Sort: Helper Tools



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**Materials:** safe pretend tools (spoon, brush, bandage, sponge), 2–3 baskets

**How:** Sort by type (kitchen tools / cleaning tools / doctor tools).

**Teacher talk:** “This helps clean. This helps cook.”

## 6) Parade: “We Help!” March

**Materials:** ribbon wands or signs with pictures of helpers

**How:** Short classroom march, practice stop/go listening.

**Teacher talk:** “We work together!”

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# Toddlers (2–3 years)

## 7) “Jobs in Our Classroom” Picture Sort

**Materials:** cards showing line leader, light helper, snack helper, cleaner, book helper

**How:** Sort into “Classroom Jobs” vs “Community Jobs.”

**Teacher talk:** “In our class, we all help.”

## 8) Process Art: Tool Painting

**Materials:** paint, toy wheels, sponge, fork, brush, paper

**How:** Use “tools” to make patterns (roll, stamp, swipe).

**Teacher talk:** “Tools help us do work!”

## 9) Thank-You Card Station

**Materials:** cardstock, stickers, crayons

**How:** Kids create cards for school staff (custodian, cook, office team).

**Teacher talk:** “We appreciate helpers.”

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# Preschool (3–5 years)

## 10) Community Helper Role-Play “Work Zones”



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**Materials:**

- **Clinic:** bandages (pretend), doll
  - **Restaurant:** menus, play food
  - **Construction:** blocks, hard hats
  - **Mail:** envelopes, mailbox box
- How:** Rotate centers; practice teamwork language.  
**Teacher talk:** “What is your job? How do you help?”

### 11) STEM Team Challenge: Build a Bridge or Road

**Materials:** blocks, cardboard, tape, toy cars  
**How:** Build something that helps people travel. Test with cars.  
**Teacher talk:** “Engineers solve problems!”

### 12) “What I Want to Be” Interview + Graph

**Materials:** chart paper, stickers  
**How:** Each child chooses a job picture and places a sticker on the graph. Count together.  
**Teacher talk:** “So many jobs help our community.”

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## Kindergarten (5–6 years)

### 13) Problem-Solving Project: “Make Our Classroom Work Better”

**Materials:** chart paper, markers  
**How:** Ask: “What’s a classroom problem we can fix?” (messy centers, noisy line). Plan a solution, assign jobs, try it.  
**Teacher talk:** “Work is helping solve problems.”

### 14) Career Tools Match + Writing

**Materials:** tool/job cards (stethoscope-doctor, broom-custodian, whisk-chef)  
**How:** Match tools to jobs; write/draw: “I appreciate \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.”  
**Teacher talk:** “We can thank workers with words.”

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# Whole-Program Ideas (All ages)

## 15) “Thank You, Workers!” Wall

Display children’s art/cards and photos of school/community workers (with permission).

## 16) Guest Helper Visit (optional)

Invite a custodian, nurse, mail carrier, or crossing guard to share what they do (keep it short and kid-friendly).

## 17) Classroom Job Fair

Each center is a “job.” Children rotate, try tasks, and earn a “Helper Badge” sticker.



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