



# HELPING THE SCHOOL PLAY

## MATCH-UP

SkillsVille™

Learn about careers dedicated on helping and supporting others.



### Career Cluster

Helping



### Success Skill

Feel



### Estimated Activity Time

Part 1: 25–40 mins

Part 2: 25–40 mins



### Group Size

Individuals, pairs, or group

## Materials

- **Helping Career Descriptions** (projection or printout)
- **Career Images** (1 printout for educator, preferably in color)
- **School Play** (projection or printout)
- **Costume Tear** (projection or printout)
- **Stage** (projection or printout)
- **Makeup and Backstage** (projection or printout)
- **Career Creation** (1 handout per child)
- Large poster board (optional)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

## Prepare Ahead of Time

Note: Parts 1 and 2 (steps 1–10) of this activity are suggested for kindergartners; all 18 steps of this activity are suggested for first and second graders. For groups doing all parts, it is recommended that you do part 3 within a week of doing parts 1 and 2.

- Print materials.
- Cut off the career names under the **Career Images**. Make sure the number is included in the image.
- Tape the **Career Images** to a wall or a large poster board in order from 1 to 4. Select an open area so children can walk up to the pictures.

## Feel Definition

Check and show your emotions.

## PART 1

### 5 MIN: INTRODUCTION

1. Begin by introducing children to the word *career*. Ask children what they know about careers.

**Ask:** *"What is a career?"*

2. After acknowledging answers, explain to children that a career is a job that a person chooses and has special education and training for. Explain that there are many different types of careers.

**Ask:**

- *"What careers have you heard of?"*
- *"What careers are you interested in?"*

3. **Say,** *"We're going to learn about four different Helping careers today! Before we get started, let's talk about Success Skills. All careers have important Success Skills that people need to do their work. Children and adults use Success Skills every day to do different tasks. Along with learning about new careers, we will learn about the Feel Success Skill and why it's needed for Helping careers. To Feel means to check and show your emotions. If you have ever been upset and had to spend some time alone to calm down, you may know how you need to Feel. Or if you have ever been really happy and started to dance around, you know what it's like to Feel."*
4. Have a brief conversation about how they use the **Feel** Success Skill in their everyday lives.

## PART 2

### 15 MIN: LEARN

**Learn about the careers.**

5. Explain to children that they will play Match the Career. Share that you will read a description of the career, and their responsibility is to match the description to a **Career Image**. Before matching, they will first view the **Career Images**.
6. Have children go up to the **Career Images** in small groups of 3–4 to take a close look at each image.
7. Ask children to share what they noticed about the **Career Images**. Have a few children share out loud:

**Ask:**

- *"What did you notice?"*
- *"What does it look like they were doing?"*
- *"Where does it look like they are?"*
- *"What makes you think that?"*

8. Read one of the career descriptions out loud (out of order, without naming the career). Ask children which **Career Image** they think it is, using the number assigned to each career. If there is more than one answer to a description, have children vote for their selection by raising their hands. Name the career out loud once children have made their final selection.
9. Have a brief discussion about whether children have heard about those careers before. Repeat the career names as needed.

**Ask:**

- *"Have you seen these careers in your community?"*
- *"Do you know anyone with one of these careers?"*

10. (Optional) Ask children the following questions, and review Success Skill definitions as needed.

**Ask:**

- *"In what other ways do you think these careers use the **Feel** Success Skill?"*

If necessary, provide prompts like these:

- *A School Psychologist needs to **Feel** when a child is sharing a happy story with them and they smile."*
- *A Custom Sewer needs to **Feel** when staying calm while fixing the fabric of a long wedding dress just before the wedding."*
- *"What other Success Skills do you think these careers use?"*

**PART 3**

**Note:** Please take time to review the **Helping Career Descriptions** if you are doing part 3 on a different day than parts 1 and 2.

**10 MIN: PRACTICE**

Create a career to solve the problem.

11. **Say,** *"Now that you know more about these Helping careers, we are going to blend a couple of them to create a new career to solve some problems. These problems need help from more than one career to solve them. Let's try it out and see what we can come up with."*

12. Hold up a printout or display a projection of the **School Play**.

**Say,** *"Careersville Elementary is hosting a school play! It's the first night of the show. Everyone is nervous but so excited to share what they have been working on with their grown-ups and the people of Careersville. They have had a lot of help from different Helping career professions, and the play could not have been ready without them. There's a lot going on backstage and in the audience—it's hard to*

*keep up with it all! When problems come up, it's up to you to create new careers that will help everyone!"*

13. Have a brief discussion with children about plays or musicals.

**Ask,** *"Have you ever been to a play or a musical, seen one on TV, or heard of one? If you have, what did you watch? What was it like?"*

14. Explain to children that you will read each problem that comes up at the Careersville Elementary School play, and it is up to the whole group to name two careers that can work together to help solve the problem. Display the four **Career Images** during this time so children know which careers to choose from. Read each scenario for the people at the Careersville Elementary School play. (Repeat scenarios and display pictures as necessary.)

- **Scenario 1**

Display the **Costume Tear** picture.

**Say,** *"The stage curtains are opening soon, and the children are getting their costumes on. Some children got ready quickly, so they decided to sit with each other to eat some snacks before the show. All of a sudden, another child comes running through the backstage area because they are almost late! They rush to get ready and end up ripping their costume and spilling juice on it. Oh no! They need someone who can fix clothes and someone who can help clean the juice stain out of the costume. What two careers can you blend to help the child with their costume?"*

[Possible answer: Custom Sewer and Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker]

- **Scenario 2**

Display the **Stage** picture.

**Say,** *"Families, friends, staff, siblings, and people from Careersville are buzzing with excitement to see what the kids have been working on! They are waiting patiently for the curtains to open. A student who couldn't be in the play sat down and waiting to watch and support their friends. The student is **Feeling** sad because they couldn't be in the play. They want to talk to someone about it. They've been **Feeling** like this a lot lately. The student wants to take a break and go outside before the show starts. What two careers can you blend to make the student **Feel** safe and listened to?"*

[Possible Answer: Childcare Worker and School Psychologist]

15. Children may have more than one answer to each scenario. This is an opportunity to discuss why they selected their answers.

## 15 MIN: ON YOUR OWN

16. Explain to children that they will now blend two or three careers on their own based on the following scenario:

- **Scenario 3**

Hold up a printout or display a projection of the **Makeup and Backstage** pictures.

*Say, "The Careersville Elementary School play is finally starting! The first part of the show was a success, and there is now a break before the second part goes on. Children are drinking water, and the audience is getting snacks outside in the hallway. Backstage, one of the children notices they somehow got face paint on their costume and tore it while they were changing! The child is worried and doesn't know how to calm down. At the same time, the volunteer who is in charge of watching the kids backstage gets sick and has to leave! Who will watch the children backstage while the play is going on? Create a new career that can help with the costume problems and the children backstage."*

[Possible answers: Custom Sewer and Childcare Worker; Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker and School Psychologist; Custom Sewer and Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker]

17. Children may use the **Career Creation** handout to arrange their thoughts. On the handout, children may draw a Helping career to fix the costumes and watch the children. Lay out all materials for children to access, or equally distribute them. Every child should be given one sheet of paper and a pencil. Encourage creativity, and review information on the **Helping Career Descriptions** as needed to help children complete the task.

## 5 MIN: REFLECTION

18. Have children share out loud what new Helping career they created based on what they know. Ask children how this new career would use the **Feel Success Skill**.

## Helping Career Descriptions

Please use the career name as often as possible. Only use the child-friendly career name to initially explain the career to children if they are unfamiliar with or confused by the career name.

Helping Career	Definition
<b>Childcare Worker</b>  Child-friendly career name: Child Helper	Takes care of children in places such as childcare centers to make sure that the children are safe.  They use the <b>Feel</b> Success Skill when they see an upset child. They have to stay calm so they can help the child <b>Feel</b> better.
<b>Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker</b>  Child-friendly career name: Clothes Cleaner	Uses machines to wash and dry clothes, rugs, and other types of fabrics.  They use the <b>Feel</b> Success Skill when they are slowed down by clothes that are hard to clean. They must wash them again and may scrub harder to express their frustration.
<b>Custom Sewer</b>  Child-friendly career name: Clothes Fixer	Creates or fixes clothing for people and makes sure the clothes fit the customer.  They use the <b>Feel</b> Success Skill when a customer tries on clothes they made for them and doesn't like them. They must be kind to the customer anyway.
<b>School Psychologist</b>  Child-friendly career name: Feelings Listener	Talks to children at school when they are having trouble learning because of something going on in their life or when they want to talk about their <b>Feelings</b> . Gives children ideas to help them learn better and make them <b>Feel</b> more comfortable.  They use the <b>Feel</b> Success Skill when a child is sharing details of a story with them. The School Psychologist may want to react, but they have to stay quiet and listen.

## Career Images



Childcare Worker

Career Images



Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker

## Career Images



Custom Sewer

## Career Images



School Psychologist

## School Play



Costume Tear (for scenario 1)



Stage (for scenario 2)



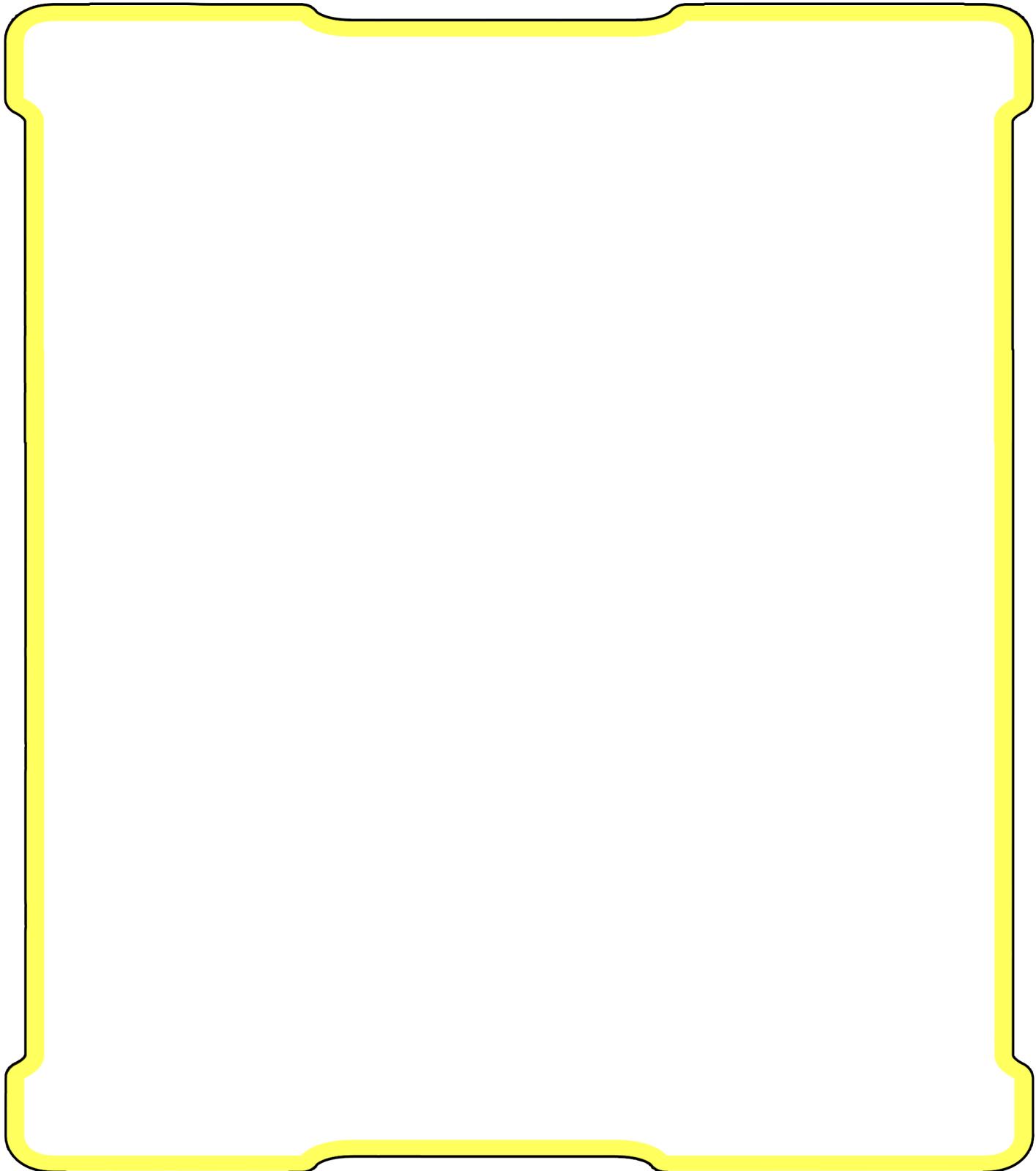
### Makeup and Backstage (for scenario 3)



# CAREER CREATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

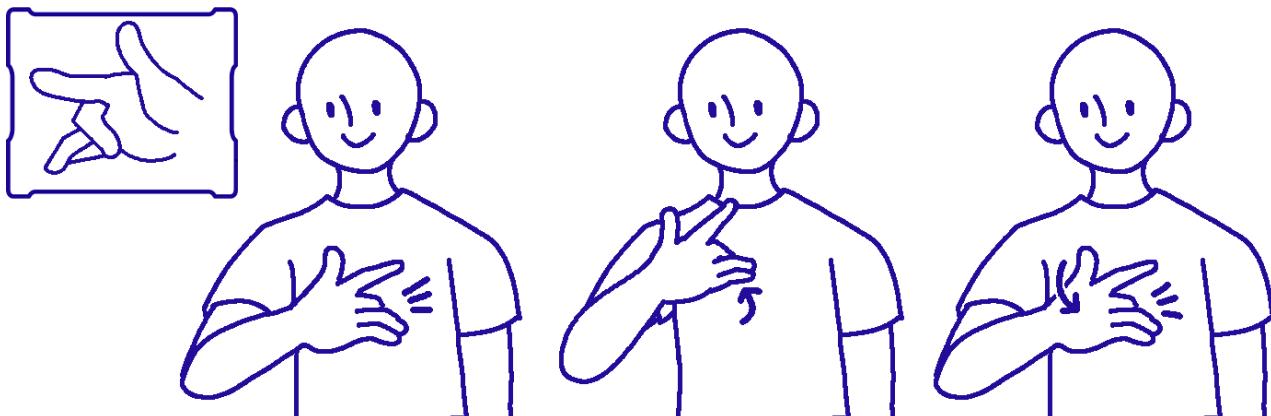
Draw your **NEW** Helping career here:



# FEEL ASL SIGN



To help children learn the Success Skill, use the ASL sign each time you say “Feel.”



1. Open the hand you write with, pointing your middle finger inward toward your chest.
2. Then, touch the center of your chest in small, upward circular motions.
3. Perform this action a couple of times, about the duration of saying the word “Feel.”



© 2024 Twin Cities Public Television, Inc. All rights reserved.

SkillsVille™ characters and underlying materials  
(including artwork) are trademarks and copyrights  
of Twin Cities Public Television.

The contents of this program were funded and developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (S295A200002). However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Career information included in SkillsVille™ program materials was informed by O\*Net OnLine job descriptions. All job descriptions and career information are current as of the date of publication.

