

HELPING THE SCHOOL PLAY

CAREER MATCH-UP ACTIVITY

LEARN ABOUT HELPING CAREERS.

TIME

Part 1: 25–40 minutes

Part 2: 25–40 minutes

STRUCTURE

Whole group, individual

MATERIALS

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

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME

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

- ✓ Review the ASL sign for **Feel**: <https://youtu.be/2rhcl54OACs>
- ✓ Print 1 copy of the **Helping Careers Definitions** Handout (or project).
- ✓ Print 1 copy of the 4 **Career Images**. Cut out each career picture. (Do not include the name of the career under each.) Make sure the number is included in the image.
- ✓ Tape them in order, 1–4, to a wall or a large poster board. Select an area that is open enough for children to walk up to.
- ✓ Print or project **School Play Picture, Costume Tear Picture, Stage Picture, and Makeup and Backstage Pictures**.
- ✓ Print 1 copy per child of the **Career Creation** Handout.
- ✓ Have crayons, markers, or colored pencils accessible.

CAREER CLUSTER

Helping

CAREERS

Childcare Worker, Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker, School Psychologist, Custom Sewer

SUCCESS SKILL CONNECTION

Feel

*Each time you say **feel** in this activity, please do the following as a corresponding ASL sign: Open the hand you write with, pointing your middle finger inward towards your chest. Then touch the center of your chest in a small, upward circular motion a couple of times.

ASL Video Link: <https://youtu.be/2rhcl54OACs>

PART 1

5 MIN: INTRODUCTION (whole group)

1. Begin by introducing children to the word *career*. Ask children what they know about careers.
 - *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 people have.
 - *What careers have they heard of?*
 - *What careers are they 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.

15 MIN: LEARN (whole group)

5. Explain to children that they will play "Match the Career." Share that you will read off a definition of the career, and their responsibility is to match the definition to a career image. Before matching, they will first view the career images.
6. In small groups of 3–4, have children go up to the career images and take a close look at each image. Give groups about 2 minutes to observe the careers.
7. Ask children to share what they noticed about the career images. Have a few children share out loud:
 - *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 definitions 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 definition, 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.
 - *Have you seen these careers in your community?*
 - *Do you know anyone with one of these careers?*
10. (Optional) Ask children the following and review Success Skill definitions as needed:
 - *In what other ways do you think these careers use the **Feel** Success Skill?*
(Prompts: 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 fixing the long fabric of a wedding dress and staying calm when they only have a couple days to do it; etc.)
 - *What other Success Skills do you think these careers use?*

PART 2

Note: Please take time to review the **Helping Career Definitions** Handout if you are doing Part 2 on a different day than Part 1.

10 MIN: PRACTICE (whole group)

Create a career to solve the problem

11. **Say**, *"Now that you know more about these helping careers, we are going to do a career mashup. We are going to 'mash' a couple of these helping careers to create a new career to solve a problem. 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 Picture**.

Say, *"Careersville Elementary is hosting a school play! It's the first night of the show and 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.

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

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 group to name two careers that can be "mashed" together to create a new career that will help solve the problem. Display the 4 **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 and spilling juice on it while running backstage. 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 we mash together 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 we mash together 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 (individual)

16. Explain to children that they will now mash their own two or three careers 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 that a tear was made when 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; etc.)

5 MIN: REFLECTION

17. (Optional) 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 Definitions** as needed to help children complete the task.
18. Have children share out loud what new helping career they created (what careers they mashed) based on what they know. Ask children how this new career would use the **Feel** Success Skill.

SUCCESS SKILLS

Use these words when talking with children. Listen for children to use these words.

Success Skill	Definition
Focus	Pay attention to something, even when distractions happen around you.
Organize	Keep track of different information and belongings and put them in an order that makes sense to you.
Think Differently	Try new things and find creative ways to solve a problem. Learn from your mistakes and make changes.
Remember	Hold new information in your mind to use when you need it.
Feel	Check and show your emotions.



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

Helping Career Definitions

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
Childcare Worker <i>Child-friendly career name:</i> Child Helper	Takes care of children in places like childcare centers or schools and makes sure that they are safe. They use the Feel Success Skill when they see a child upset, but they have to stay calm so they can help the child feel better.
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker <i>Child-friendly career name:</i> Clothes Cleaner	Uses machines to wash and dry clothing, blankets, rugs, or other types of fabrics. They use the Feel Success Skill when they are slowed down by clothes that are hard to clean, and they wash them again or scrub them harder to express their frustration.
Custom Sewer <i>Child-friendly career name:</i> Clothes Fixer	Creates or fixes clothing for people and makes sure the clothes fit them. They use the Feel Success Skill when a customer tries on clothes they made for them, and they must be kind to the customer even if they don't like it.
School Psychologist <i>Child-friendly career name:</i> 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 feelings. Gives them ideas to help them learn better and make them feel more comfortable. They use the Feel Success Skill when a child is sharing details of a story with them. They might want to react, but they have to stay quiet and listen.



Career Images



1

Childcare Worker

Career Images



2

Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Worker

Career Images



3

Custom Sewer

Career Images



4

School Psychologist

SCHOOL PLAY PICTURE

CAREERSVILLE



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COSTUME TEAR PICTURE

SCENARIO 1



STAGE PICTURE

SCENARIO 2



MAKEUP AND BACKSTAGE PICTURE

SCENARIO 3



CAREER CREATION

HANDOUT

Name: _____

Draw your **NEW** helping career here: