

LESSON IV-2: Police Officers As Your Health Helpers

Student Learning Objective:

IV-2. Students will describe things police officers do in their work as health helpers.

Preparation

- Gather the needed materials.
- Invite a police officer to act as a resource person (presenter) for this lesson if possible (Optional Activity).
- Prepare the police officer for his/her presentation (Optional Activity).

Materials

Resources

- Bulletin Board: Health Helpers (Careers–use police officer)
- Book: *I Can Be a Police Officer* or *I Am A Police Officer*
- Puzzles: Police Officer (Integration Idea)
- Optional Resource Person: Police Officer

Time: 15 minutes, not including Optional Activity

Lesson Procedure

Introduction: 4 minutes

Connect this lesson on police officers as community health helpers to the series of community health helpers covered in this phase.

1. Share with the students:

Raise your hand if you remember what we talked about in our last health lesson. [how family members help us]

There are lots of other people who help us, too. We are going to learn about many different people who are there to help us when we need them.

Place the picture of the police officer on the bulletin board.

How many of you have ever seen a police officer? What were they doing? Police officers are people who help us.

Activity 1: 9 minutes

Explain a police officer's job.

1. Share with the students:

Let's read a book and explore the many different jobs a police officer does.

Teacher's Note: You have one of the following books available for use with this lesson: *I Can Be a Police Officer* or *I Am A Police Officer*. Using the book available to you, conduct the following activity.

Read the book *I Can Be a Police Officer* or *I Am A Police Officer*.

2. Discuss the book, using the following questions:

What is the police officer's main job? [to help people and keep people safe]

What are some ways police officers help people stay safe and healthy? [help people who are lost, search for people who are lost, help people who are hurt in accidents, protect people from danger, make sure people obey laws, patrol streets, teach kids about drugs and crime, etc.]

How should we behave when we are around police officers? [friendly, respectful, follow their directions, etc.]

Teacher's Note: Stress that children should always call for help if someone is missing or a crime is committed. They should not try to do the police officer's job on their own.

Optional Activity: Variable

Teacher's Note: You are strongly encouraged to invite a police officer to visit your classroom. This is a wonderful opportunity to build positive relationships between your community officer and the students. To prepare the officer for this lesson, encourage him or her to talk about all the ways he or she is a community helper.

Presentation by resource person—police officer.

1. Introduce the police officer serving as a resource person.
2. Ask the resource person to be sure to discuss the following during his/her visit:
 - Some of the specific tasks done in his/her work as a police officer.
 - Reinforce the safety rules for school and home.
 - Both boys and girls can be police officers when they grow up.

Closure: 2 minutes

- Summarize by sharing:

Police officers sometimes look so official in their uniforms. We need to remember that police officers are our friends. They help keep our neighborhoods safe by making sure laws are obeyed. They can help us if we get lost or need help.

- State:

Our next lesson will explore fire fighters and how they are our health helpers.

Integration Ideas

Motor Skills

- Put the Police Officer Puzzles on a table where students can put the puzzle together during free time.

Language Arts and/or Art

- Draw pictures to send to the police officer who came to the classroom as a way of thanking them.
- Construct a class thank you note to send to the police officer.

