



SEEC
A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Smithsonian Early
Enrichment Center

Animal Helpers

- Animals aren't just pets or animals that live outside. There are some animals that have jobs, just like us.
- We'll call them Animal Helpers because they help us by doing their job. There are many types of Animal Helpers!





Firefighter Dogs

- These dogs help let us know where a fire began
- They are specifically trained to help prevent future fires
- After a fire, they use their strong sense of smell to trace back to the origin of the fire





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Use Your Nose!

Materials	Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Small Containers● Tin Foil● Strong Scented Items<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cinnamon○ Lemon○ Coffee○ Lavender○ Vanilla	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Place one scent in each container2. Cover with tin foil and poke a few holes in the foil3. Encourage your little one to smell what is inside the containers<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Discuss how they are using their nose just like the Fire Dogs!4. For older children have them guess what they are smelling inside the containers



Helpful Horses: Mail Delivery¹

- Horses are great Animal Helpers!
- These are Stagecoach Horses.
- Their job was to help deliver the mail.
- They worked in teams to pull the stagecoach long distances between towns.



¹ Courtesy of: The National Postal Museum



Stagecoach Pull-Toy

Materials

- A small box
- String
- Markers or Paint



Directions

1. Let your little one decorate their 'stagecoach' box
2. On one side, cut a hole and tie the string on
3. Let your little one pull their new stagecoach just like the horses





Horse Ride!

Listen to the Horses

Sit your child on your lap or knees and bounce them while singing

Listen to the horses clipping clopping
Hoof beats everywhere never stopping
Gonna ride my Palomino, ride him to the fair

Listen to the horses clipping clopping
Hoof beats everywhere never stopping
Gonna ride my Palomino, ride him to the fair
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Rescue Dogs

- Different kinds of dogs can be different kinds of animal helpers! Rescue dogs help people who are lost in the snow
- Using their super sense of smell and strength, rescue dogs have the ability to find people buried in the snow
- Meet Barry the rescue dog! He lives at the Natural History Museum of Bern in Switzerland!²



² Image Courtesy of: <https://www.nmbe.ch/en/exhibition-and-events>



Rescue Sensory Bin Activity

- Set up a sensory bin at home and add toys to the bin for your child to “rescue.”
 - Encourage your child to dig and feel through the bin to find the toys.
- Supplies Needed:
 - Plastic tub, bowl, or pot
 - Small toys
 - Potential materials to fill tub:³
 - Rice
 - Beans
 - Water
 - Pasta
 - Cereal



³Image courtesy of: <https://handsonaswegrow.com/cereal-sensory-bin-toddlers>