



Curious George Wants to Know Who Works at School

Introduction: Curious George sees lots of grown-ups throughout the school day, and he isn't sure what all of them are doing. He knows a few things about the classroom teacher, but he'd like to know more about other people, too. Your class will learn about them together.

Materials Needed:

- Chart paper and writing materials
- Paper, pencils, and clipboards for interviews
- Writing/drawing paper and supplies

Background Knowledge: This activity works well within the context of an ongoing social studies “school study,” but it can also be presented independently. Children should have had opportunities to see other parts of the school and to interact with the people who work there—the cafeteria and cafeteria workers, library and librarian, custodial office and custodians, principal’s office and principal. It may be helpful for children to understand the concept of finding out information through interviews, but you can provide support along the way if this is their first experience.

Teaching: On chart paper, make a list with your students of all the jobs that people can have in a school. Tell your students that like them, George is curious about what all of these adults do during the day. Using your list, have children think up questions they'd like to ask. Collect a list on chart paper of 5-10 questions and then vote on which three they like the best. Because children are new to interviewing, it's best to keep the questions simple and consistent for each person, for example, “What is your favorite part about your job?” or “What is the hardest part about your job?” When you have decided on three questions, tell your students that you will make interview paper for them so that they can actually go to these people, ask questions, and record their answers.

Activity: At a later date, after you have prepared the interview paper that lists the questions and shows the interview dates/times, organize your students into small groups and assign each group to a school employee. During *choice time* or *center time*, bring small groups of students to interview each worker in the place they are most likely to be found, for example, the gym teacher in the gym. If you do not have help to bring children to their interviews, or to stay with the rest of the class while you do this, you can invite the interviewees to your room and do the interviews as a whole class.

Share: Write up the results of the interviews on a chart and display it in the classroom. Children may want to draw portraits (or take photographs) of the interviewees.

*Brought to you through the courtesy of the National Education Association,
Universal Studios, and Houghton Mifflin Co.*