

Classroom Helpers

According to Evertson, Emmer, and Worsham (2000), employing the use of classroom helpers in a class teaches students responsibility. I have chosen to use this technique in my classroom. I have provided below the title of each of the classroom helper jobs in my classroom and a brief description of their responsibilities. Following this synopsis, there is a small example classroom helper chart that I would use in my classroom. You'll notice that this chart has pockets with the job titles on them, and every student's name is written on a cut-out "helping hand" and stuck into the pocket of the job title he/she has. The classroom helper jobs will remain in effect for one week, and every Friday I will rotate students' cards so they start fresh on Monday.

- ✓ **Zookeeper:** The zookeeper's job is to feed and water the classroom pets daily. There may be more than one zookeeper depending on how many classroom pets there are. This will be a morning job.
- ✓ **Gardener:** This student's morning job will be to water the classroom plants on the days specified on each plant's container. For example,



- ✓ **Attendance Taker:** This student's job is to look at the lunch count clothespin chart and record the names of the students who are absent. He/she must then report this information to the teacher. Then, this student will grab a "We're Sorry You Were Absent" sheet, fill it out for any missing students, and place it on their desks. (The sheet will be filled out by the neighbor of the student who is absent). This is a morning job.
- ✓ **Line Leader:** This person leads the line whenever the class lines up to go somewhere. This is an all-day job.
- ✓ **Pencil Patrol:** This job has two helpers assigned to it. (Note: it can either have two separate pockets or one with two hands inside on the Classroom Helper chart.) These helpers' jobs are to sharpen all the pencils in the "Unsharpened" pencil jar and move them to the "Sharpened" jar. This is an end-of-the-day job.
- ✓ **Mail Carrier:** This is another job that can have two students assigned to it. These helpers pass all graded papers back to the students (at the end of the day) and they collect ungraded papers from students at times deemed by the teacher. They are also

called upon to pass out worksheets, etc. at times designated by the teacher. Their main job is to pass back graded papers at the end of the day.

- ✓ **Trash/Recycling Monitor:** This student's job is to make sure the room stays clean and tidy. He/she must also ensure that students are recycling the recyclables, rather than throwing them away. This is an all day job.
- ✓ **Wipe Down Crew:** This student's job is to clean the whiteboard at the end of the day.
- ✓ **Homework Announcer:** This student's job is to announce (to the entire class) the homework for the day. He/she must also check to make sure everyone has it correctly written down in their planners. This is an end-of-the-day job.
- ✓ **Messenger:** The messenger is responsible for taking all messages that the teacher must send throughout the day to the office. This includes lunch choices (which he/she must record every morning) and absences (which the Attendance Taker will give him/her). This is primarily a morning job, but it also runs all day as well.
- ✓ **Librarian:** The librarian is responsible for keeping all the books in the class library neatly stacked and sorted by reading level. This person also must give a suggestion of a good book to read every morning. This student also has the final vote when the class is choosing books to be read aloud, and he/she has the option to read a book aloud to the class on Friday. This is an all day job.
- ✓ **Class Blogger:** This student's job is to write up and submit the class' blog entry for the day, using everyone's input for what was important that day. This is an end-of-the-day job.
- ✓ **Substitute Helper:** This helper's job is to fill in if any of the helpers are sick or cannot perform their duties. Also, this helper is in charge of helping out when a substitute is teaching my class.