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Beginning Research Using Informational Texts

Looking for a quick, hands-on lesson using informational texts with your young students?

Try a teacher collaboration unit about the interesting employees your students meet daily in your school. No matter what their grade level, students need to know who the employees are and their roles.

First, Discuss

- Collaborate with teachers and schedule the classes in the library.
- Read a picture book about a school worker like *The Principal from the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler.
- Conduct a discussion on the different jobs there are in a school.

Then, Investigate

- As students share information about school workers, use some type of media to develop a K-W-L chart (what the children **K**now, what they **W**ant to know, and what they **L**earned).
- Assign students to small groups.
- Have students read informational books about school employees. Check out the list below for ideas.
- Ask students to develop questions about the different school jobs like principal, teacher, custodian, secretary, aide, paraprofessional, cafeteria worker, nurse, and school bus driver.

- Use older classroom buddies with younger children (modify as necessary for ELL and special needs students) and send students out to interview school employees, using either clipboards with paper, recording devices like handheld computers, digital cameras, or digital video cameras.

The Final Product

Use the students' notes, recordings, pictures, or video to share with the class what they have learned. Develop a school bulletin board showcasing the school workers.

Resources

Some good resources to get students started include:

- [A Visit To...](#) series
- [Community Helpers at Work](#) series
- [School in Many Cultures](#) (from the Life Around the World series)

To read the full version of this lesson, plus many more ideas on how to use informational texts with students, check out [*Project-Based Inquiry Units for Young Children: First Steps to Research for Grades PreK-2*](#).

Find more lesson ideas on our Web site under

[**Linworth Resources**](#)

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