INCLUSION STRATEGIES & TOOLS

HELPER JOBS



What is a Helper Job?

An assigned or chosen classroom responsibility to assist the educators or other students.

Why use them in your class?

- Gives children something to focus on
- Gives children a sense of belonging and purpose
- Fosters independence and self-esteem
- Promotes caring and supporting others



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HELPER JOBS

Consider assigning or letting a child choose a responsibility to help them focus and selfregulate during a challenging transition or time of the day.

- Make a list of helper jobs that children in your group can successfully complete.
- Make it fun by naming your helper jobs! For example, instead of "door holding helper" use "Door Holder": one is an *action* and the other is *who you are*.
- What skills and interests could be supported or further developed? Can one child who has learned the skill help others to zip up their coats?
- Explain to the children during group time, that there are helper jobs to complete.
- Allow children to select their own helper jobs if possible.
- Share the expectations with the children .
- Cue and support the children in getting started.
- Provide encouragement throughout the process.

<u>TIPS:</u>

- Visuals are reminders of expectations and steps to be taken.
- Helper jobs can be assigned to more than one child at a time.
- Changing helper jobs keeps them interesting and fun.
- Helper jobs give children direction and purpose.

| Classroom Job Ideas | Transition Job Ideas |
|--|---|
| Snack Server Cup Collector Table Washer Song Helper Book Helper Plant Waterer | Door Holder Cubby Helper Backpack/Tablet Carrier Outdoor Toy Collector Friend Counter |