



## **AUTHORITY FIGURE VISITS**

By Dawn Scroggins

### **Activity Description**

There are several ways to help your students connect with authority figures in their community.

1. If possible, take your class on a field trip around their community. Before the tour, the teacher will need to call or visit possible destinations to make arrangements for this class visit. Furthermore, the teacher will need to acquire parental permission slips and parent volunteers, as well as schedule school bus transportation (if needed). The children may visit the fire department, post office, police department, local store and local government offices. At each location the children should meet with and interview authority figures. The students may be encouraged to ask the authority figures questions about their responsibilities as community leaders, how they received their responsibilities, and if they have rules to follow.
2. Take a walking tour of your school visiting the school secretary, principal, head lunch room person, librarian, custodian, etc. The same questions could be asked of these people.
3. Have authority figures, such as a police officer or judge, visit the classroom.

Upon completion of the visit(s), the students may draw an illustration of their favorite authority figure and write about him/her. The children's writing (summaries from their visits) could be assembled into the sequence of their visits, then placed in a class book. The next day the children should create notes (template follows) thanking the various authority figures for the time they allowed the children to visit.

### **Suggested Grade Level**

Kindergarten

### **Estimated Time to Complete**

3 hours (2 hours for a walking or bus tour plus 1 hour for writing activities)

### **Objectives**

Students will

- identify leaders in the school and/or community who make and enforce rules;
- analyze and identify the cost and benefits of the created rules;
- explain the necessity of authority figures.

### **Materials Needed**

- Field trip permission forms
- Paper for thank-you notes and copies of template (below)
- Crayons, markers, pencils

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for allowing my class to visit you.  
Thank you for talking with us about your  
position and responsibilities.  
I really enjoyed listening to you!

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_