

MOONBEAMS® HELPER



OVERVIEW

Moonbeams learn why it is important for everyone to contribute to groups they belong to, including their families and Moonbeam troop. They gain personal empowerment while learning to contribute by helping others with small tasks.

OBJECTIVES

To earn this emblem, Moonbeams need to listen to *The Little Red Hen*, complete at least one activity from each section and the Bible lesson.

BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

During this activity the book, *The Little Red Hen* is used. There are many versions of this timeless story.

Check out a copy from the children's section of the local library or download a copy for free at: www.gutenberg.org/files/18735/18735-h/18735-h.htm.

WORD BANK

- Help
- Chore
- Samaritan

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS SUPPORTED BY THE ACTIVITIES

- Family Support
- Community Cherishes and Values Young Children
- Service to Others
- Caring
- Personal Power

GROUP ACTIVITIES

ANIMAL CHARADES

Have one of the Moonbeams act like a farm animal (no noises allowed), while the others try to guess which animal it might be. Have each Moonbeam take a turn acting like a farm animal.

When children tire of the game, talk about ways the animals might have helped the little red hen. (Ideas: Dig the dirt to plant the seeds, care for the baby chicks, etc.)

FARM ANIMAL SOUNDS

Learn about the different farm animals in the story. Have the children imagine how each animal might sound. In your best little red hen voice, ask, **"Who will help me plant** (pick, grind, bake, etc.) **the wheat?**

Have children respond, **"Not I,"** using their best pretend animal voices.

HELP AT HOME

Discuss the story. Ask the children, **"Who did all the work?"** Explain that in every home there are many jobs to be done.

Name various chores and ask children who in their home is responsible for each job. Is one person doing most of the work?

Have the Moonbeams think of ways they can help with chores at home. (Ideas: dust, fold wash clothes, match up the socks, wipe the table, etc.)

WHICH CAME FIRST?

SUPPLIES:

- Pictures of various animals or birds

Explain that chickens are birds. What do we know about birds?

- Birds have wings.
- Birds have feathers.
- Birds lay eggs.
- Most birds fly.

Show pictures of various animals and birds. Allow children to identify the pictures that show birds.

Birds are helpers. What are some ways birds help the environment?

Birds help by:

- spreading seeds,
- eating insects, and
- providing a food source.

CRAFTS

MAKE A HEN

SUPPLIES:

- *Little Red Hen* template from *Leaders' Resource Pages*
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Brads
- Glue

Make a little red hen. There are many ideas online or use the template included in the printable resources at the end of this activity.

BUILD A BARN

SUPPLIES:

- Shoe boxes or oatmeal boxes
- Red construction paper or red paint and paint brushes
- Tape or glue
- Plastic farm animals

Every hen needs a home! Have each Moonbeam build a barn for their red hen. Use a shoe box and oatmeal box. Paint the boxes red or cover them with construction paper. Use small plastic farm animals to fill your barnyard.

HELPING HANDS BOUQUETS

SUPPLIES:

- Plastic flowerpots or glasses (one per child)
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Tape or glue
- Styrofoam™ cups
- Craft sticks



Collect small plastic flowerpots from a dollar store or thrift store or colorful plastic glasses to use as flowerpots.

Trace each child's handprint onto several pieces of construction paper. Have the children cut out the handprints. These will be the flowers.

Ask children to think of ways they can help at home. Write one way on each cutout handprint. Paste each print onto a craft sticks and "plant" it in the flowerpot.

NOTE: Flowers will stand better if smaller Styrofoam cups are used as a base. Turn one cup upside down in each pot. Poke craft sticks through the Styrofoam.

RED HEN PUPPET

EASIEST OPTION

SUPPLIES:

- Craft sticks
- Cardstock
- Picture of little red hen
- Glue

Make stick puppets. Photocopy a picture of the hen from the *Little Red Hen* book onto cardstock. Cut it out. Glue the picture onto a craft stick.

MORE DETAILED OPTION

SUPPLIES:

- Paper bags
- Red and yellow construction paper
- Markers and crayons
- Scissors
- Glue

Make paper bag puppets. Cut 4 inch circles and squares from red construction paper. Cut a small yellow heart and triangle shape. Trace the Moonbeam's handprints on red construction paper and cut out to make wings.

Paste the circle onto the flap of the bag to form a head. Use the heart and triangle to make the topknot and beak. Add the square to the front of the bag to form the hen's chest. Glue handprint wings to the sides. Use crayons to add eyes and details.

SALT DOUGH BREAD

SUPPLIES:

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1½ cups hot water (from tap)
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 8 drops yellow and 2 drops red food coloring (optional)

Mix the salt and flour together. Gradually add water and food coloring until the dough becomes the consistency of elastic. Add vegetable oil and mix.

For a brighter color, gradually mix in a few additional drops of food coloring. If the mixture is too sticky, gradually add more flour. If the mixture is too dry, gradually add more water.

Knead dough until it is a nice consistency. Roll and shape dough into bread shapes. Allow projects to air dry overnight.

NOTE: The dough will keep for a few days if stored in a sealed container and refrigerated.

SONGS & RHYMES

THIS IS THE WAY

(To the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush")

This is the way we wash our clothes,
Wash our clothes, wash our clothes,
This is the way we wash our clothes,
So early Monday morning.

This is the way we iron our clothes,
Iron our clothes, iron our clothes,
This is the way we iron our clothes,
So early Tuesday morning.

This is the way we sweep our floor,
Sweep our floor, sweep our floor,
This is the way we sweep our floor,
So early Wednesday morning.

This is the way we dust the house,
Dust the house, dust the house,
This is the way we dust the house,
So early Thursday morning.

This is the way we scrub the floor,
Scrub the floor, scrub the floor,
This is the way we scrub the floor,
So early Friday morning.

This is the way we bake the bread,
Bake the bread, bake the bread,
This is the way we bake the bread,
So early Saturday morning.

This is the way we go to church,
Go to church, go to church,
This is the way we go to church,
So early Sunday morning.

GAMES

I SPY

Take turns hiking around the neighborhood to see who can spy the most things that are red.

LITTLE HELPERS

Let the Moonbeams practice being good helpers. Clean an area of the corps. They can vacuum, dust, clean mirrors, wipe tables, etc.

SNACKS✱

CHICKENS AND EGGS

If completing this emblem close to Easter, use jellybeans, chicken-shaped Peeps® or Easter eggs for snacks.

TEA AND TOAST PARTY

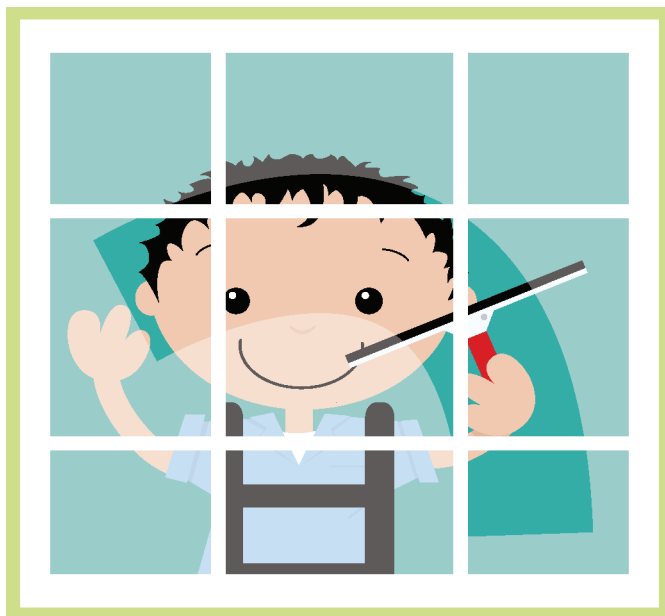
Give each Moonbeam a job so that everyone is helping. A leader could toast the bread. Someone butters the bread. Another helps by folding the napkins, setting the table, etc. Afterwards, everyone helps clean up!

BIBLE LESSON

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) from a children's Bible or Bible storybook.

Ask: **Which of the people in the story were helpers? How did the Samaritan man help?** Explain that Jesus said we should be like the helper in the story. We need to watch for ways to help others.



OPTIONAL: Have the children think of ways to help others. As each child names a way, give them a band-aid to wear as a reminder that we need to help others.

THE BOY WHO SHARED HIS LUNCH

Read about the miracle where Jesus fed five thousand people (John 6:1-13) from a children's Bible storybook or Bible.

Ask: **Who were the helpers in the story?** (Disciples, Jesus, little boy) Explain that by sharing his lunch, one little boy was able to help many people. Ask the children to think of ways to help others.

MIRIAM

Read the story of Miriam watching over baby Moses (Exodus 1:22-2:10) from a children's Bible or Bible storybook.

Ask: **Who has a little brother or sister? How can you help your brother or sister?**



LEADERS' RESOURCES

BOOKS

The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza by Philemon Sturgis (This is a charming updated version of an old favorite. When Red Hen decides to bake a pizza, her friends are too busy to help. This modern version of the tale has a surprising twist, which will teaches an important lesson.)

The Little Red Hen by Paul Gladone

The Little Red Hen: An Old Story by Margot Zemach

Veggie Tales: Mess Detectives: The Couch Potato Caper by Doug Peterson

Cook-a-Doodle-Do by Janet Stevens

WEBSITES

To find activities, craft ideas and games to use with this emblem, check out: <http://pinterest.com/samoonbeams/helper/>.

Visit this site to create and print chore charts: www.handipoints.com/printable_chore_chart/chore_chart.html.