Maggie’s Civics Corner

Lesson 25 – Be A Helper

Today’s Quote: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”
-Mr. Rogers

Today’s lesson is about Helpers: Part of being a good citizen – and dog – is helping people who need it! Our country looks to all kinds of helpers: firefighters, healthcare volunteers, teachers and more. Think of the last time someone helped you, maybe with homework or a chore. People help you all the time, and I bet you help them too. A couple states, like Rhode Island and Vermont, even require you by law to help out people if you notice them in need. Why is it important to help others?

Sticky Situation: Imagine you go to the park and notice someone crying on a bench. You don’t know why they are crying, but you see that they are alone at the park. You have four options: (1) you can choose to walk by without saying anything; (2) play with your friends instead; (3) get help from an adult; or (4) try to cheer them up yourself. Which would you choose?

It is important to remember that helping others is great, but make sure you’re always being safe. Never approach a stranger unless you have a trusted adult with you.

Activity: Think of a way you can help someone today. Maybe you have a sibling who needs help with homework, or maybe you can help cook dinner. Look for someone in your home who needs help with something and offer to be a helper. Did helping someone make you feel happy? Proud? Write down how it makes you feel to help a friend.

Civic Resources: For more information on why and how kids can help out in the community, visit: https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/volunteer.html.

Bonus Craft: Saying thank you to helpers is important. I’m going to make a thank-you note for my Mom because she helped me today by filling my dogfood bowl. I’ll draw a picture of us playing at the park! Pick someone who has helped you and write a thank-you note for them with a picture.