

# The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



## Police Officers On Patrol

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Illustrated by R. W. Alley

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

All through the day, Sergeant Santole gets calls from folks in need around the town. Each time, he sends out the best officers for the job. They fix a broken light, find a lost boy, and even capture a robber. The alarm is going off! Who will Sergeant Santole send to help out this time?

Genre: Picture book

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Police Officers On Patrol* to introduce in your classroom:

uniform	badge
radio	brave
responding	mounted

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

*COR Advantage 1.5*

Approaches To Learning  
Item B (*Problem solving  
with materials*)

Social And Emotional  
Development  
Item D (*Emotions*)  
Item H (*Conflict resolution*)

Creative Arts  
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Social Studies  
Item FF  
(*Knowledge of self  
and others*)

### Reading Tips

Show the children the repeated words: uniform, badge, radio. Let them know that whenever you point to these words, they should shout out, "Uniform! Badge! Radio!" This way, the police officers in the story will know what they need. On the pages before the officer goes to help, ask, "What is the problem?" and then, "How might the officers solve the problem?" Add other open-ended questions like, "How else could the officer solve that?"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Call **transitions** as if you are Sergeant Santole. "Who will help? Who is brave? Officers get your coats for Outside Time!"

For **Clean-Up Time** say, in your Sergeant Santole voice, "Who can help? Who is fast?"

Pretend to be officers on patrol at **Large Group Time**. Have children call out ways to move seen from the story. For example: gallop, run, pretend to chase a balloon or direct traffic.

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add police officer props in the **House Area** to encourage acting out the story.

Post photos of police/law officers from other countries in the **House Area** to compare uniforms.

Add cars, trucks and community helper figures to the **Block Area**. Encourage the construction of towns with buildings and stores like in the story.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Police Officers On Patrol*:

What do you think it would be like to be an officer on patrol on a horse?

Have you ever gotten lost like the boy with the balloon?  
How did you feel? Can you share about that?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

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[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### **@ Home**

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Police Officers On Patrol* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read *Police Officers On Patrol* together, notice the ways the officers in the story help out in their community. Problems are solved, children are reunited with their family, and a robbery is foiled. The officers are shown arriving to work in the beginning of the story. You could ask, "Where are the officers coming from?" and invite your child to describe the officer's home and family. Talk about how your family members do their jobs every day and the officers in the book do their jobs every day. One officer in the book gets to ride a horse. You might ask, "I wonder why she is on horseback? Why do you think that is helpful?"