



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Preschool
Educational Equity For All

August 2017

Welcome back to a brand new year. I hope you have been able to recharge and relax just a little and are ready to go.

I thought I would start off with some survival tips for the first weeks of preschool.



www.Prekinders.com, Karen Cox, has a great page full of ideas she suggests:

The best advice I got as a new teacher was to forget about apples and themes and any “cutesy stuff” for the first few weeks of school, and focus on teaching them how to use the centers and the materials in the classroom. Lessons at the beginning of school should be basic: how to use glue, how to use scissors, how to use markers, how to use paint, how to line up, etc. Don’t assume that they know these things. Think about your routine and how you want your day to flow. This will help the assistants as well as the students. Have structured activities to get to know your students.

A great way to establish a connect with parents right off the bat is to send home a welcome packet.

Karen includes suggestions for the parent packet and even a “First Day Fears” letter for parents.

The packet includes a letter to the parents introducing yourself and the assistant with some brief information about the program and curriculum. It also includes a child info sheet. The packet also has a “First Day Fears” letter, explaining separation anxieties and some tips for a smooth transition to school. <https://goo.gl/T4USwc>



Separation Anxiety Activities

The first few weeks of preschool can create separation anxiety (for both the children and the parents!) Here are a couple of things parents can do to help with that.

Send a Letter to Parents

Explain about separation anxiety and how they can help their child settle!

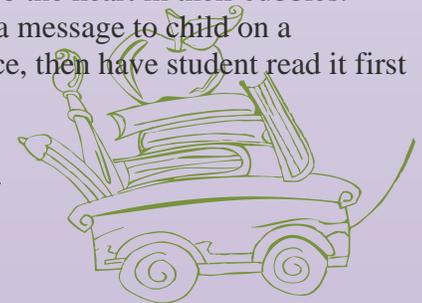
I have a letter here that you might like!

I Love You Hearts

Cut shape hearts (different colors) and give to each parent to write something for their child. Keep the written heart messages in the children’s cubbies. If the child misses his parent he can go to his cubby and find his parents message.

EXTENSION: Take a picture of each child and their parent(s) and tape it to the heart in their cubbies. Have parents record a message to child on a communication device, then have student read it first thing in the morning.

<https://goo.gl/z8CS6J>



EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



First Day of School
Picture Frame
I used Velcro to attach
the star labeled "1st",
so I can change it out
with "100th" or "Last"

NO TIME FOR FLASH CARDS



CIRCLE TIME ACTIVITIES AND BOOKS FOR THE
FIRST WEEK OF PRESCHOOL <https://goo.gl/vJ2Xtw>

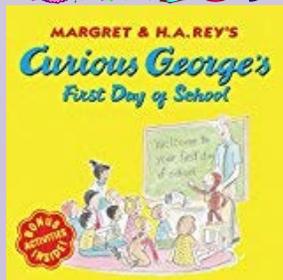
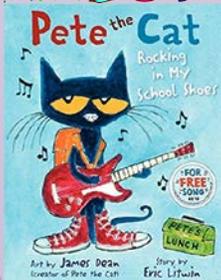
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Get your copy today and start playing!

teaching2and3yearolds.com

<https://teaching2and3yearolds.com/learn-with-play-activities/>



WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.nuttinbutpreschool.com/back-to-school/>

<https://goo.gl/O6LHTv>

<https://goo.gl/TYk8Q2>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Virginia Early Intervention Professional
Development Center*

Online modules, Mini lessons, and Early
Intervention Topics and Trends.

Example:

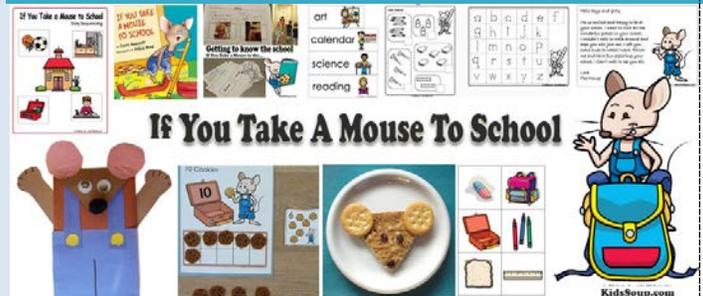
Communication Delays & Disabilities

Click the links below to jump directly to the
following sections of this page.

Landing Pad | Archived Webinars | Articles &
Handouts | Tools | Audio/Visual | Websites &
Programs

http://www.veipd.org/main/sub_communication.html

IF YOU TAKE A MOUSE TO SCHOOL PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS



If You Take a Mouse to School Preschool and
Kindergarten activities and crafts. If you take a
Mouse to school, first he'll ask you for your lunchbox
-- and then he'll want to get his paws on everything,
from spelling and math to a messy science
experiment. You will find a weekly plan to help
children get familiar with their classroom
environment and their school with engaging activities
and games. Getting back into the swing of school is
this month's theme with the help of the little mouse.
Welcome children back to the classroom with school-
related subject matter that builds literacy, develops
vocabulary, instills math concepts, and inspires
dramatic play and movement activities.

<https://goo.gl/Vy8KyG>