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Preschool Theme Kits SCHOOL DAYS



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ADULT RESOURCES

**Transition Time: Let's Do
Something Different!**

Jean Feldman

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS -
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

FOR YOU: a copy of these activities
is available in back of this notebook.

Welcome to the *School Days* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

Related Activities

-Fun and Games-

OUR BIG CLASS FAMILY **

Use a large sheet of paper for the background. Make a red cut-out figure of the school or child care and post it in the center. Make an opening door by cutting around three sides of the door, and put your picture behind the door. If there are other workers, put their pictures behind other door or windows.

Make a construction paper house for each child. Cut two houses at a time by folding the paper in half. Write each child's name, address, and telephone number on their house. Have the children cut out and decorate the houses with crayons and markers. Make a hinged door and two windows in each house and post a photo of each child behind one of them, if you have them, or have them draw a picture of themselves.

Draw streets leading from the school and arrange the houses along them. Detail the neighborhood with cars, trees, flowers, trucks, etc.



**Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

****Special note: We recognize that not every child care setting is a "school." There are many diverse and wonderful child care programs in our communities. Please use the terminology that fits your group.**



NEW SCHOOL/DAYCARE & NEW FRIENDS *

To help ease the transition into a new program, have the children's names posted in key places, such as by cubbies, by coat hooks or on walls. Add unique stickers next to written names for the pre-readers. Children love to see pictures of themselves. Ask each family to bring in a photo and hang it up next to the child's name. Make a display of all the children's photos and they will feel they are a significant part of the whole class. Try to pair up an older or more experienced child with a new child. The older child can show the new child around the room and help at snack time. It allows both children to feel important and included.

***Used with permission from King County Library System.*

TRANSITION TIME - Adult Resource

This resource is filled with easy, fun ways to get your children's attention (*Magic Wand*, on p. 110, *Cluck Cluck Cup* on p. 122), or move them from one activity to another (*Phone Fun* on p. 139). There are also songs and poems (*Two Little Blackbirds* with finger puppets, p. 104) and learning activities (*Set the Table*, p. 146).

And don't miss Chapter 8, **Games** (p. 159 – 186), which include reading readiness games, memory and math games, color games, listening games and thinking games.

TIPS FOR TRANSITIONS*

To help the children anticipate what will be happening next, make simple signs. These can show pre-readers what to expect. Use magazines and toy catalogue pictures that represent parts of your day (snack, free play, rest, outside). Mount these pictures on mat board and write what portion of the day they represent. Introduce the cards at group time and see if the children can help you put them in the right order. Put them up on a wall so that everyone can refer to them. When you are about to get ready for a transition, ask the children if they can figure out what is going to come next. This helps everyone see how the day flows.

SHOW AND TELL DAY

Does your daycare have Show and Tell? Children love this simple way to share cherished items from home. You can set up a rotating schedule, or just give children a chance to share during a circle time, even talking about what they brought in their lunch box, or what they like about their favorite toy or blanket. To facilitate the sharing schedule, you can decorate a pillow case, or use any bag, and send it home with the child whose turn it is to Show and Tell.

School Days Theme Kit

Questions or Suggestions:
Call the Youth Services Dept.
at (360) 384-3150

-Fingerplays-



NEW FRIENDS! *

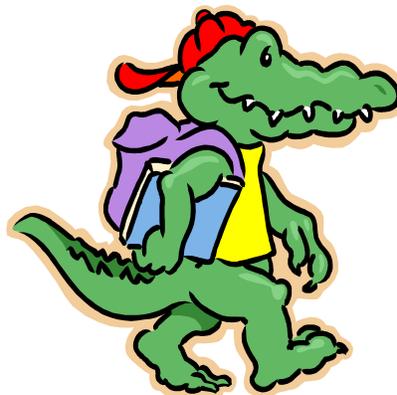
(suit finger actions to words)

See this finger?
It is Sue [pick a child's name]
To preschool [daycare] she came.
She looked and looked
Around the room.
She didn't know a name.
Four children looked right up
And smiled
And they waved at Sue!
So she smiled back,
And then she waved
And took a step or two.
Soon she was clapping
With them all.
And when it was time to play,
She said, "I'm glad we're friends
At preschool [daycare] today!"

Adapted from Ring A Ring O'Roses

READY FOR SCHOOL *

Two little houses closed up tight.
Open up the windows
And let in the light.
Ten little finger people
Tall and straight.
Ready for school at half past eight.



READY TO LISTEN

(suit actions to words)

Let your hands go clap, clap, clap.
Let your fingers snap, snap, snap.
Let your lips go very round
But do not make a sound!
Fold your hands and close each eye.
Take a breath and softly sigh:
Ahhhhhh!

Hold up index finger.

Finger peers around.

Hold up four fingers on other hand

Wiggle four fingers

Wiggle index finger, move hands
toward each other.

Clap hands

Clasp hands together

(Fists closed up thumbs in)
(Fingers open)

(Palms to front, fingers erect)

(Fingers erect, hands and arms
move forward)

THIS IS THE WAY WE GO TO SCHOOL ** (sung to: Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)

This is the way we go to school,
(day care, preschool, etc.)
Go to school, go to school.
This is the way we go to school
So early in the morning.
(Have the children tell how they
came to school.)

How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.