

# Show and Share

Ms. Feldman has...



**Ideas Shared at  
Camp Kindergarten 2008**

**Dr. Jean Feldman**

# Show and Share

## Camp Kindergarten, 2008

Everyone seemed to enjoy this inspirational thought I shared at the beginning of Camp K.

### **WITH APOLOGIES TO KNOWN**

When I am introduced as a teacher, I am usually asked what I teach. When I say, “Kindergarten,” I generally hear a very flat, “Oh.” I have never been certain whether that is an expression of pity, disgust, or perhaps disinterest. Always I wish I had time to explain to them like this:

Yes, I teach kindergarten. Where else would a handsome and very young man put his arms around me and ask, “Do you know I love you?”

Where else could I see a fashion show daily and keep up on the latest trends for the very young?

Where else could my limited wardrobe be complimented or my earrings thought beautiful?

Where else could I eat a soiled piece of candy from a grimy little hand and not become ill?

Where else could I have the privilege of wiggling loose teeth and receive the promise that I may pull them when they’re loose enough?

Where else could I guide a chubby little hand that some day may write a book or an important document?

Where else could I walk around the room and have little warm hands reach up to touch me?

Where else could I forget my own aches and pains because of so many cut fingers, scratched knees, bumped heads, and broken hearts that need care?

Where else could my mind stay so young as with a group whose attention span is so short that I must always keep a bag of tricks up my sleeve?

Where else could I feel so close to my Maker as I do each year because of something that I have done to help one of His little children learn and grow.

Yes, I teach kindergarten and I love it!

Source: Unknown

The teachers at Camp Kindergarten get an A+ for creativity and originality! If you wrote your name on the paper, then I gave you credit. I apologize to those of you whose names I did not include on your ideas.

NOTE! If any of these ideas don't make sense, I take all the blame! If you could have seen all the scraps of paper and notes you would understand. There are some "diamonds in the rough" here that you can adapt, tweak, and change to work for you!

Thanks for the great ideas!!

### SUB CD

Make a CD for your sub to use when you are absent. Include a good morning song, calendar song, movement songs, and good-bye song.

### DAILY CD

Make a CD for each day of the week with a different good morning song, calendar song, phonics song, movement song, and good-bye song.

### 15 MINUTES OF WALKING/EXERCISING

Try building 15 minutes of walking each day as you count, sing letter songs, say days of the week, months, and review other information.

### BIRTHDAY HAT

Let the children make birthday hats from sentence strips and wear them as you sing "Happy Birthday Letters."

### MAGIC WORDS

Write color words, sightwords, letters, etc. with glue on 4" x 6" index cards. After they dry, children place paper on top and hold it in place with clothespins. Children then rub over the cards with the side of a crayon and read the words. Later in the year children can write sentences with words. (Arlene)

## NEW WEBSITES

mathwire.com (math)

sparklebox.co.uk (printables)

kidscount1234.com (math)

illuminations.nctm.org (math)

flylady.net (back to school classroom organization ideas)

## POCKET CHART DICTIONARY

Write words (names, monthly vocabulary) and draw picture clues on 9" sentence strips. Write just the word on a 6" strip. Place these in a pocket chart. When children are writing in their journals they can take out the word they need, use it, and then return it to the pocket chart.



“BOO”-Ti-TA

In October you can change “Tooty Ta” to “Boo-ti ta.”

## STORY GLOVE

Write the following on each finger of a cloth work glove:

1. Somebody
2. Wanted
3. But
4. So
5. Then

Children use these prompts to recall a story. You can also send it home with a different child each night to do with their parents. (**Beth Blair**)



## NUMBER SENSE

Write the numerals 1-100 on 2" foam squares and place them in a lunch sack. Each day choose 2 squares and count forwards from one number to the next. Next, count backwards. Which is greater? Less? Which has 3 tens? Can you show it with money? Which is odd? Even? (**Leslie** who teaches first grade suggests starting with numerals 1-10 for younger children.)

## CLASS PHONE BOOK

Write each child's phone number on a different page. (You will need to get parental permission for this.) Let children use stickers or dots to make sets under each numeral as shown.



## OVERHEAD CENTER

Make copies of rhymes or poems on transparencies. Let children illustrate these. Use in a center.

## PUSH PIN

Let children make holes around letters, shapes, numbers, or words. They can then trace over these with their finger or hold them up to the light.

## HOP SCOTCH

Make a hop scotch with duct tape on the floor in your classroom. First, write letters in the sections. Children hop and name the letters. Next, they make the letter sound. Finally, they can say words that begin with sounds. Later in the year you can write words in the sections.

## STREAMERS

Make streamers by taping strips of tissue paper to craft sticks. Children can use these for doing invisible writing (air writing).



## COOL SOUNDS

Children will love rapping out letters and sounds if you get them novelty sunglasses shaped like stars. Here's the chant **Andrea Flynn** taught us:

A says (Snap fingers.)  
A says (Snap fingers.)  
/a/ /a/ /a/ (Slide hand in front of you with palm open.)

## SHEET PROTECTOR POEMS

Each week give children a poem to put in a sheet protector. On Monday they can use erasable markers to highlight words that rhyme. Tuesday they can use a different colored marker and highlight word wall words. Wednesday they can highlight punctuation, and so forth.

Several teachers were enthusiastic about a book called FAST START that has poems and activities to reinforce reading skills.

## AEIOU BINGO

AEIOU  
AEIOU  
AEIOU

I know my vowels and so should you! (**Beth Zermuchlen**)

## COLLECTING TRASH

Put microwave bowls at each table and use to collect trash during the day. One student empties all the bowls into the big trash can at the end of the day.

## GIANT CLOCK

Take a large vinyl table cloth and write the numerals on the clock around it with a permanent marker. Cut long arrows and short arrows out of poster board for the hands on the clock. Children lay on the floor with the arrows to show the time. (**Lindsay**)

## LINE UP CHANT

Teacher says: Pizza Hut  
Children say: Face the front.  
Teacher says: Eyes on (teacher's name).  
Children say: And our lips our shut.

## BOARD GAMES

**Lisa Powers** puts board games between two pieces of plexiglass to make them last longer.. (They will cut the plexiglass for you at Lowe's or Home Depot.) She uses butterfly clips to hold the game board in the plexiglass.

## MAGIC ROCK REVIEW

Open a paper lunch sack and hold it with your thumb and middle finger. As children answer questions let them pretend to throw rocks in the bag. Snap your finger as you pretend to catch the magic rock (answer) in the sack.

## GOOD JOB CHEER

“G” double “O” “D” – J – O – B. (Clap on each letter.)  
Good job. (Arms up in the air.)  
Good job. (Arms out to sides.)

## 5<sup>TH</sup> VERSE FOR THE RULES RAP

Say please, thank you, excuse me, and may I.  
Say please, thank you, excuse me, and may I.  
The rules, the rules, the rules of the classroom.  
The rules, the rules, the rules of the classroom. (**Cynthia E.**)



## NIBBLING SHAPES

Give children a saltine and challenge them to turn it from a square to a circle. You can also let them nibble a square saltine into a triangle. (**Chasity Lee**)

## FOUR SEASONS

**Lisa Powers** taught us this song to the tune of “Frere Jacques”:

Four seasons,  
Four seasons  
Here we go.  
Here we go.  
Winter, spring, summer, fall.  
Winter, spring, summer, fall.  
Seasons come.  
Seasons go.

## LET’S GO

Here’s another line up song to the tune of “It’s Raining.”

Let’s go.

Let’s go.

L – e – t – s      (Spell out the last two words)

G – o.

## STICKER GAME

**Heather Diaz** turned a simple idea into a classroom favorite game. She writes words, letters, etc. on index cards and places them on the floor. Heather also uses a seasonal sticker to hide under the cards. Her students “hide their eyes” while she hides the sticker under one of the flashcards. Then she chooses one child to take a pointer and guess where the sticker is. After identifying the word, that child turns the card over. If there is no sticker, then another child gets a turn. The game continues until a child finds the sticker. Then that child gets to hide the sticker for the next game.

## MORE MAGIC WORDS

**Kelly Hain** writes letters, words, shapes, numerals, etc with a white crayon on white paper. Children paint over it with water colors and the word will “magically” appear.

## KINDERGARTEN JEOPARDY

**Faye East** makes a jeopardy board with skills they are working on, such as letter sounds, high frequency words, social studies and science skills. etc. They play this game every Friday during skills block. The class hums the “Jeopardy” song to give them thinking time. Each child has a ziplock bag to keep their play money in. The last day of school they sort their money and practice counting by 1’s, 5’s, 10’s etc. Then they get to “spend” their money on prizes she has labeled with price tags.

## ZERO THE HERO

Thanks to **Laura Beth Tull** for this great game to use during transition times. You will need a spiral bound notebook of index cards. (Start with the back cover facing up so you can decorate as the front cover for the game.) Write numerals randomly 0-20 several times on the index cards. Decorate the zero card with star stickers. Each time the zero card is shown the children stand in their place and fly like a super hero and then sit back down.



## POPCORN WORDS

Some classes call high frequency words “popcorn” words. When children find the popcorn words in little books they make they get to color them with a yellow highlighter. That’s like putting butter on popcorn!

**BOOM!**

**Rachel Lee** uses a drink mix canister and popsicle sticks to make this game. First she decorates the can and writes sight words on the sticks. She writes “BOOM!” on one or two sticks. Children take turns pulling the sticks. If they read them correctly, they get to keep as a point. If they can’t read it, they return it to the can. When “Boom!” is pulled the game is over. Children count their sticks to determine the winner. Start over again for more fun!

## THE MONEY SONG

**Diane Downes** shared this song to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

A penny is worth one cent.  
Lincoln is on one cent.  
Lincoln Memorial is on the back.  
A penny is worth one cent.

A nickel is worth five cents.  
Jefferson is on five cents.  
Monticello is on the back.  
A nickel is worth five cents.

A dime is worth ten cents.  
Roosevelt is on ten cents.  
A flaming torch is on the back.  
A dime is worth ten cents.

A quarter is worth twenty-five cents.  
Washington is on twenty-five cents.  
An American eagle is on the back.  
A quarter is worth twenty-five cents.

## NUMBERS' DAY OFF

**Pamela Noble** shared this delightful idea. The numbers in her classroom left a note saying, "We're tired!" They made pillows and put the numbers to sleep for a day. During the day they could not speak the numbers, but they could make them with a body sound. For example, instead of saying "two" you would clap your two times. During the night the numbers had a party and left a MAD MATH MANIA MESS! Children had to clean up after the party and find the numbers hidden around the room.

## MISSING LETTER DECK

You will need three colors of index cards to make this game. On three cards write:

A B \_

A \_ C

\_ B C

On the next color write

D E \_

D \_ F

- E F

And so forth.

Here are a few ways you can use these cards when you have a few extra minutes.

Let children sign the missing letter.

Let them whisper the missing letter.

Let them trace the missing letter in shaving cream

Let them write the missing letter.

Let them make the missing letter with play dough.

## HAPPY STICKS

**Lindsay Elkins** passes out "happy sticks" for good behavior. When children save ten sticks they get a "coupon." These are ideas you can put on coupons:

Bring your teddy bear to school.

Write with a pen.

Wear your pajamas to school.

No shoes for a day.

No homework.

## MAILBOX FAIRY

**Lauren Stadlander** gets small wine bottle boxes from the supermarket and hot glues the dividers together to make a mailbox. She puts each child's name on a sticker and puts it in a section. All papers get rolled up and slid in the mailbox. Students take the papers home at night. The "mailbox fairy" only puts special treats in empty mailboxes!

## WACKY SENTENCES

**Vanessa Morton** makes a game from a take off of Eric Carle's HEAD TO TOE. She creates noun cards (children's names, animals, etc.) and verb cards. She uses different colors of poster board for the nouns and verbs. She also draws stick figures acting out the verbs. Children draw a card from each pile and then make up a "wacky" sentence with the noun and the verb. Older children could write the wacky sentence and then draw a picture of it.



## MORE MONEY IN THE ICE CREAM JAR

One teacher shared that on the first day of school she told the children that if she called them the wrong name that they could respond by saying, "More money in the ice cream jar." Throughout the school year she had to put a dime or quarter in a jar if she called them by the wrong name. The kids loved it when they caught her making a mistake. Don't forget to buy the ice cream at the end of the year!

## FOCUS FOR CIRCLE TIME

Clap, clap, clap.  
Hands in your lap.  
Wave them in the air  
Like you just don't care.  
If you see a bird (flap arms),  
Don't say a word (sshhh!).  
If you see some bees (thumb and index finger together)  
Put them on your knees.  
Clap, clap, clap  
Hands in your lap.  
Everybody everywhere  
Put your bottom in a chair (or on a square).

## COUNTING TO 100

Every time you make a set of ten, change your voice. For example, whisper, papa voice, shout, teeny mouse, normal. etc. (**Rene' Soffels**)

## ATTENTION

**Rene' Soffels** also wrote that when the kids are lining up she asks them to do what she does. She stretches her hands out to the side, wiggles her fingers, and says, "Give yourself a hug from your teacher and have a good day!"

## CLEAN UP PLANE

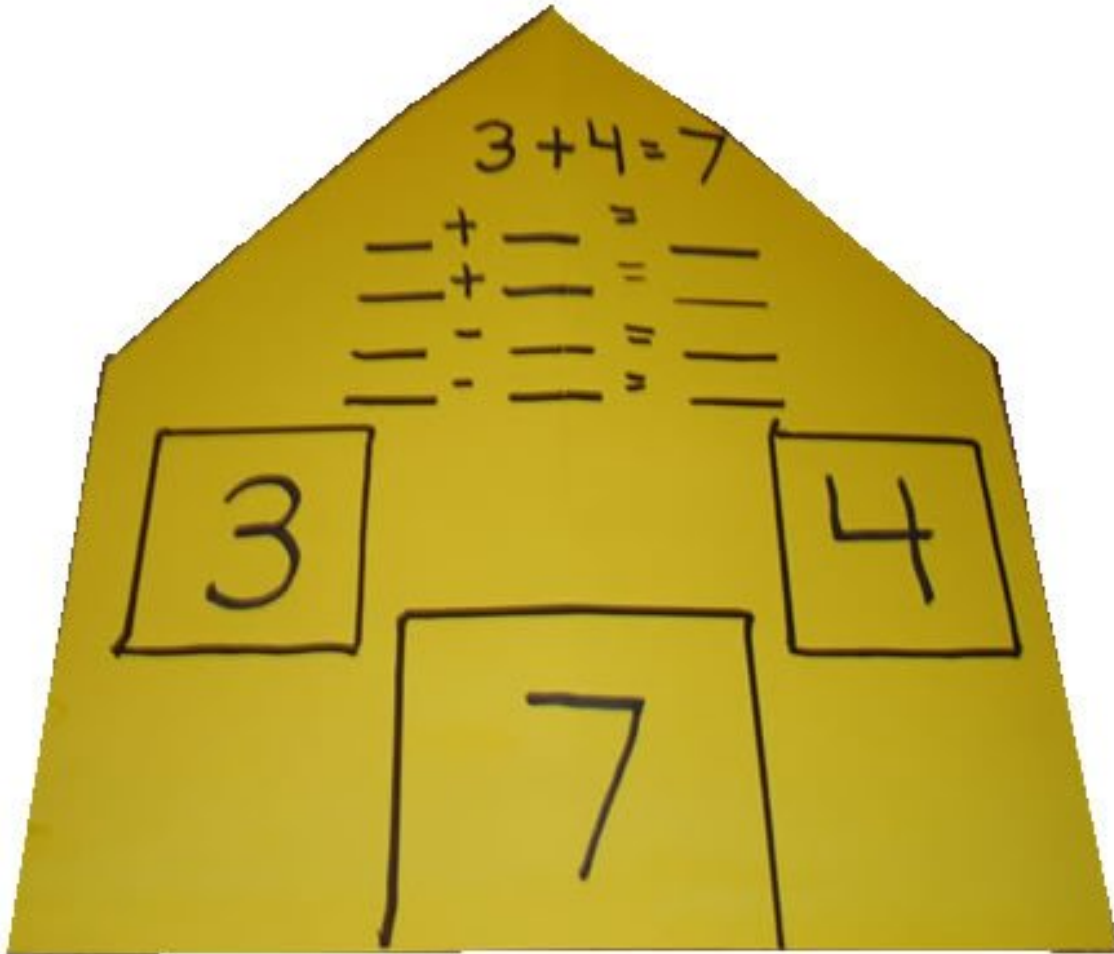
Tell the kids that you will come pick them up in a plane, boat, taxi, whatever! Show them how to put on their seatbelt, helmet, life jacket, etc. As you walk around the room, stop and invite them to get on your plane if they have cleaned up their center. If they are not through cleaning up just keep going and come back to them later. (**Gail Elledge**)

## PATRIOTS' DAY

**Heather Swartzbaugh** said that they make a giant US flag out of the children's handprints and footprints and send the flag to the troops overseas. Handprints become the stars and the footprints go across the paper in a horizontal line to make stripes. "Walking hand in hand with our heroes!" "Following in our hero's footsteps."

## MATH HOUSE

**Polly Wilson** makes a math house that looks like the one pictured.



## COOKIES AT THE BAKERY SHOP

**Sarah Burkhardt** shared this song to the tune of “Five Little Ducks That I Once Knew.”

5 little cookies at the bakery shop.  
All dressed up with sugar on top.  
Along came (child’s name) with a penny to pay.  
She bought a cookie and went away.

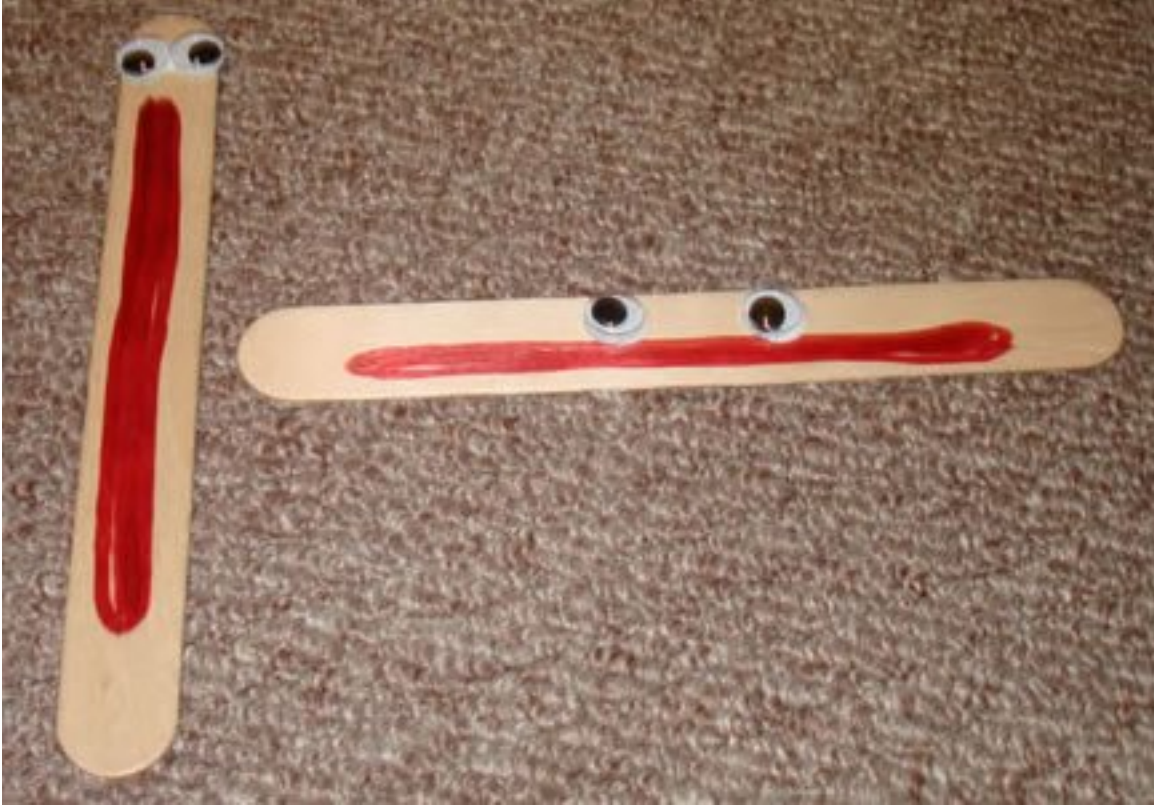
## NUMBER VESTS

**Debbie H.** suggested making number vests to teach place value. If you used different colors for numbers on the front and the back, children could visually see the tens and ones. For example:

12 = 1 ten (purple) and 2 ones (gold)

## VINNY VERTICAL AND HARRY HORIZONTAL

**Amy Freund's** children can remember vertical and horizontal lines with the characters she makes from craft sticks. Can you tell which one is Vinny Vertical and which one is Harry Horizontal?



## HUNDRED DAY SHIRTS

**Elissa Wolff** said for 100 days of school they put handprints on white T-shirts and numbered the fingers. The kids practiced counting with the fingers on the shirts, and then they wore them on field trips.

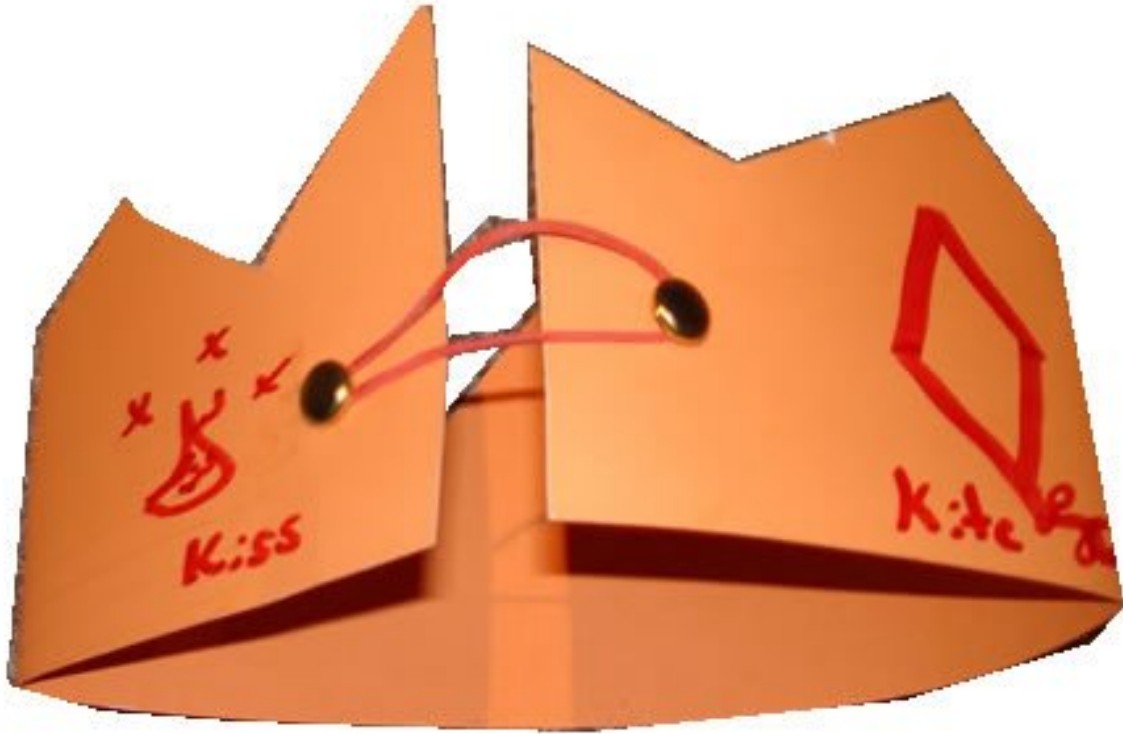
## WET TOWELS

**Margaret from Texas** puts wet paper towels in the refrigerator for the children to use on their faces and arms to cool down after PE on hot days. She challenges the children to figure out how many towels will be needed each day. Margaret also said that measuring cups from laundry detergent are great for sorting, manipulatives, etc.



## HEAD BANDS

**Debbie Frances** shared a great idea for headbands. Fold construction paper or use sentence strips or poster board) to make a headband. Hole punch each end of the head band and put brads in the holes. Attach a rubber band. Children can decorate these, and they'll fit any head.



## LETTER BOX IN ESPANOL (Tune: "Little Red Box")

By **Ana Contreras**

Una cajita de tesoro  
Para poner la "A"  
La saco y digo /a/ /a/ /a/  
Y la vuelvo a guardar.

## SELF STICKING MAT

Draw a desired design on a plastic shower curtain. Using spray adhesive from a craft store, spray several coats on the shower curtain. The shower curtain becomes tacky similar to post-it notes. Fold the curtain sticky sides together for storage.

## DAYS OF SCHOOL COUNT

**Catherine Bouwman** shared this great idea for counting each day during calendar time.

As you count...

Touch toes for 1/6/11/16...

Touch knees for 2/7/12/17...

Touch hips for 3/8/13/18...

Touch shoulders for 4/9/14/19...

Touch heads for 5/10/15/20...

Remind children that they should be touching their heads on all 5's and 10's. You can also let them shout when they get to the 5's and 10's.

## MONEY POEM

(From **Bill Mosley**)

Penny, penny

Easily spent.

Copper brown

And worth one cent! (Use normal voice.)

Nickel, nickel,

Thick and fat.

You're worth 5 cents

I know that! (Use a deep voice.)

Dime, dime,

Little and thin.

I remember

You're worth ten! (Use a squeaky voice.)

Quarter, quarter

Big and bold.

You're worth 25

I am told. (Use a big, bold voice.)

**Debbie Francis** added this verse for half dollars.

Half dollar, half dollar,

Biggest of all.

You're worth 50 cents

The most of all!

## META-COGNITION

When you ask children to “think about their thinking” there will be a stronger connection. Therefore, when you ask them to describe what they’ve learned or share what they’ve learned with a friend, you are improving retention and learning.

## WRITING BAG

Put finger paint in a gallon size zip bag and seal with packing tape. Children can trace numerals as they say the number chant.

## THUMBS UP STATEMENTS

**Brenda Lee Hernandez** said they say this pledge based on their school’s six pillars of character:

I am respectful.  
I am a good Citizen.  
I am trustworthy.  
I am responsible.  
I am fair.  
I am caring.  
I use good manners.  
I use kind words.  
I can do it.

## TAKE A PICTURE

**Brenda Lee** also shared this idea to help children with word recognition.

Focus your camera. (Look at the first letter.)  
Focus your camera. (Look at the word.)  
Focus your camera. (Look at each letter.)  
Snap the picture. (Each child’s camera button is on their head.)  
Now it is filed away in your brain.  
You can close your eyes and see the picture.

## ADOPT A SOLDIER

**Brenda Lee Hernandez** writes:

“In today’s times, it should be rather easy to find soldiers to adopt from within your school community, since many students and co-workers have family members serving in the military. My Pre-K class adopted one of our parents serving in Korea. We proudly posted her picture in our classroom next to the American flag. She received a care package for Christmas, and we sent special artwork and letters throughout the year.

Thanks to her husband, she participated in parent conferences via video and the class sang Happy Birthday to her via the cell phone. In February she visited our class when she came home on leave.”

WOW! What an inspirational story for the rest of us! Here are other resources to adopt soldiers:

[www.mysoldier.com](http://www.mysoldier.com)

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

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

### MONEY STEP BOOK

Use a step book to help older students understand money and fractions.

### FLASHLIGHT FRIDAY

**Molly Hickman** says that they gather the students on Friday in one classroom. They turn off the lights and use a flashlight as they sing ABC and number songs. For classroom management, they shine the flashlight on a student and sing, “I like the way that (child’s name) is sitting” to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

### TIME MACHINE

Children wrap up a box and bring the following from home:

\*Favorite small toy

\*Picture of their family

\*Letters from mom, dad, grandma, etc.

Children make a book called “My Kindergarten Year” with information about their favorite color, friend, song, game, etc.

The teacher also writes a personal letter to each child.

Put all of the above in the box and send it home as a “time machine” to be opened when they graduate from high school.

**Angela Richie** shared this idea because when her brother graduated from high school it was such a special family memory!

### ROLLER COASTER REREAD

Have children make a long line facing the same direction in their chairs or on the floor. They can reread poems, books, songs, etc. as they “ride the roller coaster.”

## SIGHT WORD SIGN

**Phyllis Hodges** uses this routine for helping children remember sight words and spelling words:

1. Say the word as you sign the word.
2. Spell the word in sign language and with your voice.
3. Say the word and sign the word.

## NAME TAGS

**Crystal Pritchard** gets tags from Lowe's or Home Depot where they display counter tops. She puts the children's pictures and names on the tags. Children put their tags on hooks in centers when they want to play there. There are a limited number of hooks in each center to control the number of students in each center.

**Crystal** also suggested using Gerber plastic baby food containers for passing out craft items and sorting activities.

## POSITION SONG

(Have children act out the words as they sing.)

I'm in right, out right, up right, down right happy all the time.  
I'm in right, out right, up right, down right happy all the time.  
Since (name of school) is my school,  
And it is so cool.  
I'm in right, out right, up right, down right happy all the time!

## FIVE LITTLE MUFFINS

Five little muffins in the bakery shop.  
You know the kind with the honey and the nuts on top.  
Along came (child's name) with a penny to pay  
And bought one muffin and ran away.  
4,3,2,1...  
Along came (child) and and WHAT?  
No muffins – and ran away!

## TELL THE TEACHER

Take picture of your face and enlarge it. Tape to a paint stick and put it in a plant. When children want to tattle, they go tell it to your face in the plant!

## RECALL BEARS

**Connie Cook** cuts out bear heads and writes story elements (Who? What? When? Where? Why?) on them. Children pick a bear before the story and then answer it after the story.



## WHO LET THE WORD WALL WORDS OUT?

Use the same chant as, “Who let the A out /a/ /a/ /a/ /a/” and insert word wall words. For example, “Who let AND out? AND, AND, AND!”

## KISS AND CRY AREA

**Barbara Harris** puts two small rocking chairs in the book area. When students are upset, crying, or missing mom, a volunteer student reads to them. **Barbara** says that usually within 10 minutes they are both giggling.

## MAKING GOOD CHOICES

**Krystal Riddle** taught us this song that goes to the tune of “Oh, Christmas Tree.” It’s a great way to talk about making good choices!

Oh, Mr. Toad, oh, Mr. Toad,  
Why did you go out in the road?  
Oh, Mr. Toad, oh, Mr. Toad,  
Why did you go out in the road.  
You used to be all big and green,  
But now you are all flat and lean.  
Oh, Mr. Toad, oh, Mr. Toad,  
Why did you go out in the road?

## KISS YOUR BRAIN

The last week of school **Allison Perry** fills a jar with Hershey’s kisses. When she tells the kids to “kiss your brain,” they get a kiss from the jar.

## TATTLE TALE ANNIE

**Jane Pool** tells the children that if someone is hurt or in danger, they should tell the teacher. Go to “Tattle Tale Annie” for everything else. Jane has a child size Raggedy Ann on a bench in the room that they can talk to because SHE LISTENS!

## AROUND THE WORLD

Children sit in a circle. The teacher pulls a flash card (color, shape, animal, letter, word, etc.) out of a can. The first 2 children stand up. The first one to identify the information on the flashcard gets to move to the next person. The goal is to see if you can move all around the circle (:around the world”).

## THAT WAS EASY

**Sharon Roden** gets an “Easy Button” from Staples. Children get to push the button when they read a word or book that they have struggled with or another skill that they have mastered.

## KINDER CHANT

**Sharon** also teaches her kids this chant:

Everywhere we go  
People want to know  
Who we are  
So we tell them,

We are kindergarten  
Mighty, mighty kindergarten. (Show muscles.)  
\_ \_ \_ \_ (Spell out school's name.)  
(School's name) is the school for me.  
Go (school's name)!

## SALAMI

**Sharon** tells her class that they will learn a secret word that no one else in the school knows. When they hear SALAMI, they know:

Stop  
And  
Look  
At  
Me  
Immediately!

## MAGIC TRIANGLE

**Cathy Crady** reminds her children that they all have a magic triangle in their pocket. (Place pointers and thumbs next to each other to form a triangle.) When they need to calm down or if a child is upset she has them take out their magic triangle and hold it in front of their mouth. She tells them to take a deep breath in through their nose, and then slowly blow through the triangle.

## MISSION SONG

**Cathy** and her students make a list of behaviors that they are working on. She will sing out a question as the students march, respond, and salute.

Teacher: Are you in your own space?

Children: Yes I'm in my own space.

## YOUR MAJESTY STICK

On a nature walk children pick a stick. Then they decorate the stick however they would like. One child each day is selected to be "Your Majesty." You have to refer to the child as "Your Majesty" all day. You can also play tricks with the majesty stick. Hold it one way and the kids make a certain noise, such as "Oooga." Hold it another way and go "Chalka." (Connie Cook – Children's Theater in Kansas City)



## MANNERS

**Paula Beckerman** has made up delightful songs that encourage good manners and positive behaviors. Here are two of her songs:

### I Can Walk When I'm Inside (Tune: "Froggy Went a-Courtin;")

I can walk when I'm inside, uh-huh, uh-huh.  
I can walk when I'm inside uh-huh, uh-huh.  
I can walk when I'm inside, outside's when I run and slide,  
Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

I can run when I'm outside, uh-huh, uh-huh.  
I can run when I'm outside, uh-huh, uh-huh.  
I can run when I'm outside, but I always walk when I'm inside  
Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

### I Have Manners (Tune: Are You Sleeping?)

I have manners, I have manners,  
Every time, every day.  
When there's something I want,  
When there's something I want,  
I say please. I say please.

I have manners, I have manners,  
Every time, every day.  
When someone is nice to me  
There are words I like to say,  
Thank you friend. Thank you friend.

## HANDS FOR TIME

Around the outside of an analog clock tape handprints (showing all 5 fingers) by each numeral. Children will learn to count by fives to tell time.

## QUESTION GRAPH

Use a t-chart, bar graph, or Venn diagram to ask a question each day. Glue the children's pictures to small squares and tape a magnetic strip on the back. Children use these to mark their daily choices.

## CREATIVE COUNTING

**Toni Dowdy** lets children use silly voices to count by ones to 100. They get to cheer when they get to 100. For example:

Baby voice...Wah! Wah!

Robot voice – Boop, boop be boop!

Ghost voice – Boo!

Dinosaur voice – Roar!

## TRAIN WHISTLE

To get children's attention, **Toni** blows a train whistle. Children respond with, "All aboard."

## BANANAS OVER FRACTIONS

**Melinda Maurer** says if you peel a banana and then take your thumb and press it lightly into the top it will separate into three sections (triangular prisms). If you cut those in half you will have  $\frac{1}{6}$ .

## MOBILES

**Margaret from Texas** says she uses the lids from microwave bowls for mobiles. The strings go easily through the holes and hang well from the ceiling.

## GRANNY AT THE FAIR

I used this chant as a brain break during Camp K. Several teachers wanted the words so they could use it in their classrooms to release wiggles.

My granny went (Children repeat each line)

To the county fair.

And she bought

A rocking chair. (Begin rocking back and forth.)

And she rocked, and she rocked, and she rocked, and she rocked.

And she bought a fan there... (Begin fanning yourself with right hand.)

And she bought some scissors there...(Cut with left hand.)

And she bought some gum... (Begin chewing.)

And she blew a bubble there...

And she blew, and she blew, and she blew, and POP! (Extend hands by mouth.)

## CLIP BOARDS

If you call local doctor's offices they will donate clipboards to your classroom.

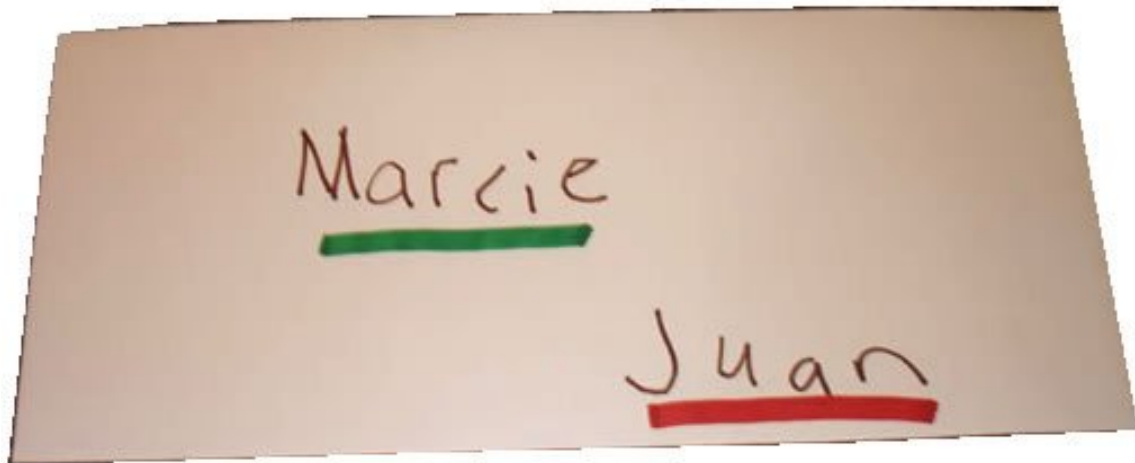
## LINE UP SYMBOLS

**Traci Alley** puts garage sale stickers on the children's desks. She draws shapes, letters, numbers etc. on the stickers to reinforce skills they are working on. When it's time to transition the children she will say, "All students with squares line up." "All students with '6' come to the carpet."

## MAIL

**Traci** also assigns students a friend to write to each day. She uses prompts with high frequency words (such as I can\_\_\_\_.) Children write or draw a letter to their friend about themselves. They then "mail" the letter to their friend by placing it in a gold envelope at their table. At the end of the day the table captains deliver the mail.

\*The color indicates the table where children are sitting.

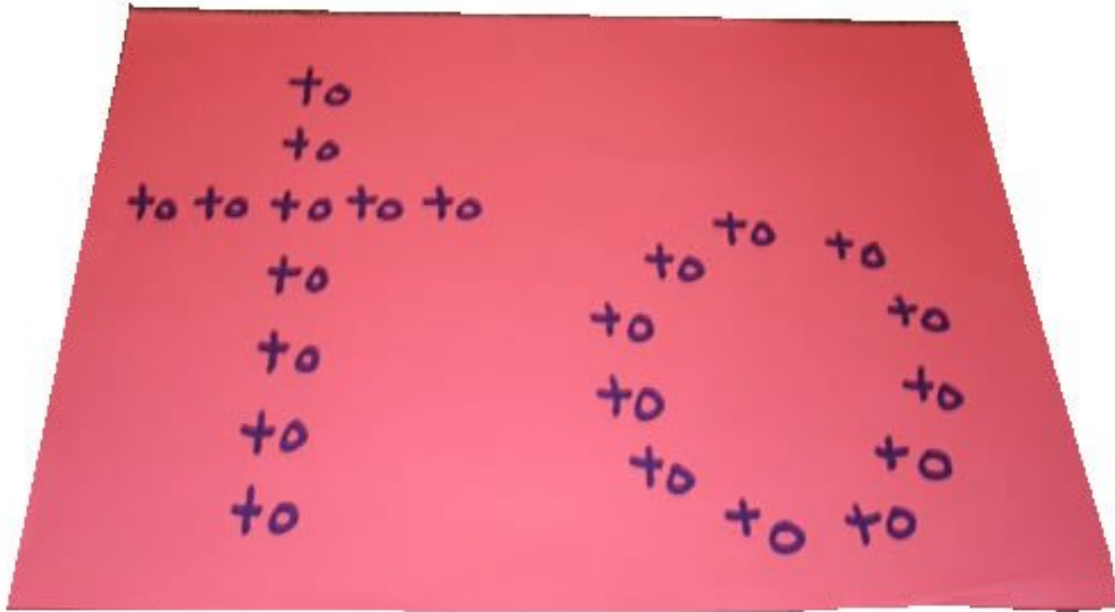


## COFFEEHOUSE POETRY

Every year **Jennifer Russell** celebrates poetry with a coffeehouse party. First she decorates the room with Christmas lights and children's artwork. The students wear t-shirts and berets and recite poetry and plays. Guests can dress up if they wish. She plays low jazz music as the parents enjoy coffee and the kids drink hot cocoa. Pastries are donated by local bakeries.

## SPELLING WORDS

To help older children practice spelling words ask them to write the words in the word shape.



## GOLDFISH MATH

**Lee Ann Hughes** shared this finger play. She gives her children goldfish crackers to eat as they say the rhyme.

Down by the river,  
What did I see?  
Five little fishes smiling at me.  
Along came (child's name)  
With a fishing pole.  
He caught one fish and took it home.

Someone else added that they give the children long pretzel rods. Children dip the end in peanut butter and then catch "fish" with the peanut butter.

## DUCK DUCK GOOSE VARIATION

Play "Duck, duck, goose" using high frequency words or numbers.

## LETTER DICE

**Corrie Scheidegger** suggested making letter dice from a paper dice pattern. (You can find one online if you google it.) Make two dice one color and write consonants on the sides of these dice. Make a third die of a different color and write vowels on the sides of this one. Children roll the dice and practice making silly nonsense words.

## LETTER OR NUMBER VEST

Laminate tagboard and punch holes and attach stirrings. Use wipe off markers to write what you need, such as letters, numbers, word wall words, etc. Use red for the vowels and white for the other letters.

## PUT YOUR BOTTOMS ON THE RUG

**Lynn K.** taught us this song to the tune of “Put Your Finger in the Air.”

Put your bottom on the rug, on the rug.  
Put your bottom on the rug, on the rug.  
Put your bottom on the rug and give yourself a great big hug.  
Put your bottom on the rug, on the rug.

## HAPPY MUSIC

One teacher shared how a little boy had a CD of his “happy music.” I think all teachers should have a CD with their “happy music” to use when all else fails!

## COUNTING

Sometimes children are impulsive when they count and skip numbers because they go too fast. A teacher said before her students start she always asks, “How do we count?” The children respond, “We count slow.”

## FISHING FOR NAMES

**Joyce** cuts small fish from fun foam and writes letters on them. She then makes cards with the children’s names. **Joyce** puts paper clips on the fish and sets them on a blue pond shape cut out of felt. Children try to catch one fish at a time to match the letters on their name card.

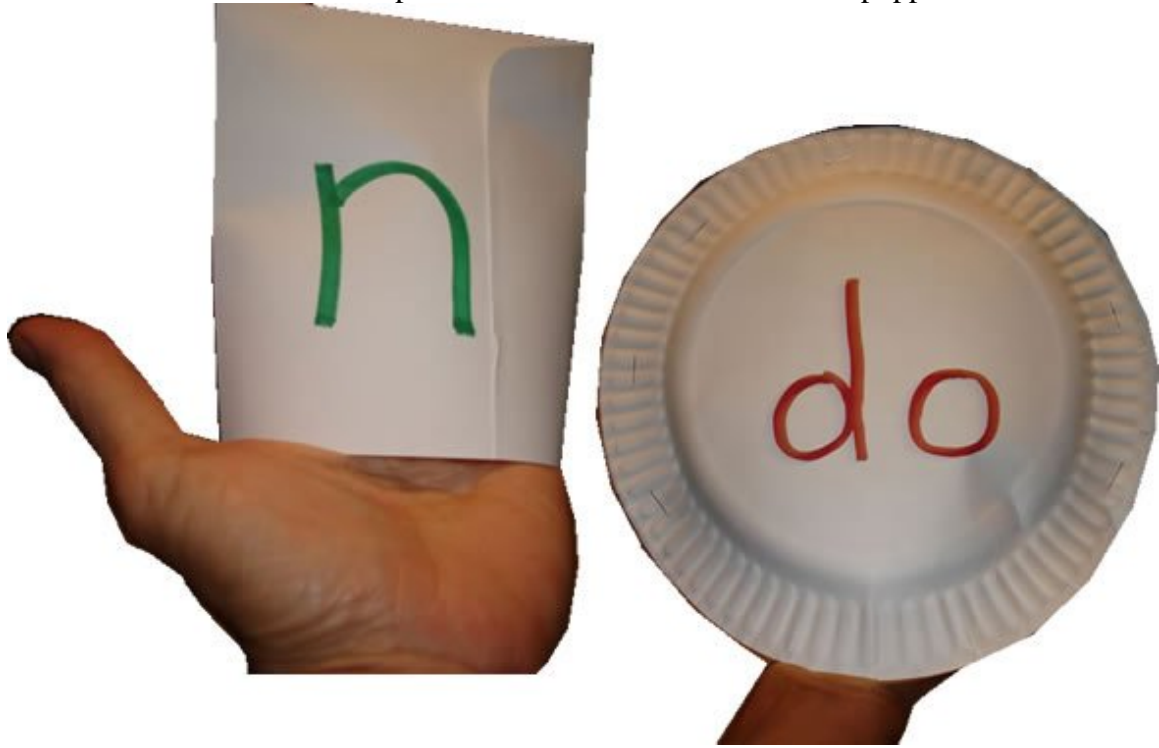
## BOOK IT PROGRAM

If you visit [bookitprogram.com](http://bookitprogram.com), you can get great ideas for encouraging parents to read with their children at home. There are parent letters in English and Spanish, reading logs for each month, and other free packets for teachers.

## LETTER PUPPETS

Staple edges of paper or paper plates together and insert your hand to make a puppet. Write the uppercase letter on one side and the lowercase letter on the other side.

\*You could also cut an envelope in half and use it to make a letter puppet.



## WORD WALL HANGMAN

**Wendy Davis** plays hangman to reinforce children's names, color words, word wall words, etc. She makes lines for the letters on a dry erase board. If they guess a letter in the word, she writes it on the line. She draws a part of the hangman for each letter that is not in the word. Each month she adapts the hangman to relate to the season or holiday. For example, she might draw an appleman in September or a snowman hangman in January.

## DRIVE THROUGH BOOK

**Tomi Baldwin** makes a book shaped like a red sports car. Each page has its own take out bag. The last stop is the trash can!!

## MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

**Tomi** also makes a giant cardboard cupboard with doors open and shelves made out of bulletin board borders. Children bring in box fronts and line them on the shelves. Children transition by finding special letters, identifying sounds, etc. on the boxes in the cupboard.

## HANDY DANDY BOOK OF CANDY

**Tom** makes an alphabet book with a candy bar wrapper for each letter. How much fun can that be to eat the candy first!

## COLOR BALLOONS

**Rachel Snethen** says you will need different colored balloons, color word cards, and a paper bag for this activity. Put all of the balloons in the bag. The helper draws out a balloon and finds the color word that matches it. The class counts the number of letters in the word and spells the color word while the teacher blows one breath per letter. Talk about why red is small, what the largest balloon may be, etc. The color word and balloon are put on the marker board with a clip. Finally, the helper pops the balloon from the day before.

## CHEEZ IT MEASURING

Did you know that Cheez-Its are one inch squares? What a great way to measure!

## WAITING IN LINE

When she is waiting for a student, **Katie Sundheimer** sings:

I'm waiting on a friend.

I'm waiting on a friend.

I'm waiting on a friend

To get in line...come to the carpet, etc.

## CALENDAR

**Katie** also has her students stand and do motions for the days of the week.

Sunday – pretend to eat a sundae

Monday – pay out money

Tuesday – show two fingers

Wednesday – act like the wind is strong

Thursday – take a drink like you're thirsty

Friday – act like you are eating fries

Saturday – all students sat down

## CHEESE SANDWICH

To blend words, **Katie** makes a cheese sandwich with her hands and her mouth. Take the right hand and say the first letter sound. Touch your right hand to your cheek and make the middle sound. Take the left hand and touch the left cheek and make the third letter sound. Pretend to smash cheeks together and say the word.

If you make your cheese sandwich, but it doesn't make sense you have to grill your sandwich and sounds until it makes sense!

## MATH MAT

**Tina Bailey** taught us how to make a circular math mat. The largest number is always in the circles. Turn the circle for inverse.

## POSTIVE BEHAVIOR SONGS

**Paula Beckerman** has written some original songs for encouraging positive behaviors.

## STIRRING UP OUR PRE-K

**Elizabeth Hague** really blew us away with her cookbook!!! She integrates cooking with her skills and themes throughout the year and then gives the children their own copy as a memory book at the end of the year. I will treasure mine always, and I know her students will love theirs as well!

**Elizabeth** has graciously shared all of her recipes with us. There are so many that we will post them over the next three months.

