



Tips for Tots

August 1, 2015

Get Ready for the First Day

After you have done the important work of establishing a daily schedule, creating the learning environment, and selecting or preparing a curriculum unit, preparing for the start of a new school year should be a pleasant job. The following tasks will make the new year smooth for you and the children.

Label a File Folder for Each Child

You will use these folders to store all paperwork for each child, including family emergency information, observations, and evaluations.

Label Cupboards or Hooks with Children's Names and Pictures

- Write these names in large, clear print so that children can learn to read them easily.
- For the first few weeks of school, children will need help locating their cubbies or hooks.

Create a Job Chart

There are many jobs that children can do in the classroom. This helps them take responsibility for the things and routines in the room, and creates a sense of community. The important thing is that everyone get a chance each week to do at least one job. Some jobs that can be performed by children in every classroom include:

- Door Holder
- Light Keeper (Turn lights off when the class leaves the room; turn lights on when the class returns)
- Line Leader
- Weather Reporter (Describes daily weather during Circle Time)
- Calendar (Puts day of the week and date on the calendar during Circle Time)

- Clean-Up Monitor (Check that each center has been cleaned up before going to the playground, leaving for lunch, etc.)

Create an Information Center for Families

- Provide information on what is going on in the classroom.
- Have the sign-in sheet here, if parents bring children into the classroom.
- Post your lesson plans and daily schedule here.
- Post your letter to families and if you have a monthly newsletter here.

Write a Letter to Your Families

At the beginning of the school year, you should write a letter to your classroom families telling them a little bit about the school year. Explain the daily schedule and routine, and tell them about the centers in the classroom.

For the complete article visit:

Preparing the Classroom

Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute

<http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/resources/curriculumforfour/pdfs/Ch1-Preparing-4s.pdf>

CCS is currently enrolling.....please have any of your families contact our office to see if they qualify. Our income guidelines have been raised so someone who thinks they do not qualify just might.
(325) 653-2321

Thank you, Julie Vigil

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Recipe Corner

Dirt Desert

Ingredients

- 3 or 4 chocolate sandwich cookies
- ½ cup fruit yogurt or pudding
- ½ cup of coconut shavings
- Green food coloring
- 2 or 3 candy worms
- Small empty yogurt container
- Plastic bag

Instructions

1. Crush chocolate cookies in a plastic bag
2. Put 1/3 crushed cookies in empty yogurt container
3. Spread yogurt or pudding on top of cookies
4. Sprinkle "green" coconut on top of yogurt
5. Hide a worm on top of coconut
6. Add remaining cookie crumbs and two more worms

Enjoy you compost treat!!



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All About Me Rainbow Activity



- Give each child a cloud cut-out and strips of construction paper.
- Assign each colored strip a different get-to-know-you question and create a key, for example: **Red**-how old are you? **Orange**-how many siblings do you have? **Yellow**-do you have a pet, if so what kind? **Green**-what is your favorite color? **Blue**-what is your favorite food? **Purple**-what do you want to be when you grow up?
- Depending on child's ability, have them write their names on the cloud, or assist as needed.
- The completed project can be hung from the ceiling, clipped to a clothesline, or used to create a vibrant back to school bulletin board!

