

Back to School Pack

Created by ~ Donna Whyte



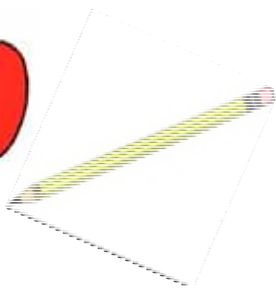
This Pack Includes:

Helpful Hints

Name the Class
Questioning Kids
The Expert Book
Oops...I Forgot
Back to School Kit
Borrow Box
Chair Tags
Tattling
Not Available Signals
Good Choice/Bad Choice
Think Time
Safety Deposit Box
Home/School Folder
"Student" Teacher
Volunteers
New Teacher Poem/Gift

Activities/Ideas

Gingerbread Man on the Run
Here's the Scoop on Our New Class
Mirror Greeting
If you Take a Kangaroo to Class
If I were an Animal...
What's in my Backpack Book?
A Day with My Teacher
What Can You do With a Name?
A Year in Pictures
The Home-School Puzzle
My Family Frame
Scrapbook Page
Song - First Ten Days of school
Book List
Ways to Say Good Bye
Questions for "Graph a Day"
Poem - What's in my Backpack?



My name is Donna Whyte. I am a mom, a certified teacher in NYS and a National education consultant. My workshops over the years have included *50 Teaching Tips for Successful Classrooms*, *The First 30 Days* and *You Can't Teach a Class You Can't Manage* (which is also the name of a book that I wrote). Teachers that have attended these workshops will often write to my website, www.thesmartiezone.com, to tell their favorite idea or to share how something they learned in the workshop was used in their own classroom. I have compiled the teacher's favorite ideas in this *Back to School Pack*. The pack starts with *Helpful Hints* that will allow you to create an organized, fun and independent classroom of children. The second half of the pack is filled with *Activities & Ideas*, classroom book ideas to make, a treasured book list, a Back to School Kit and much, much, more. Including the song - The First Ten days of School (written to the Twelve Days of Christmas) and a poem for parents which has been downloaded and used by thousands of teachers entitled "You Ask What's in My Backpack".

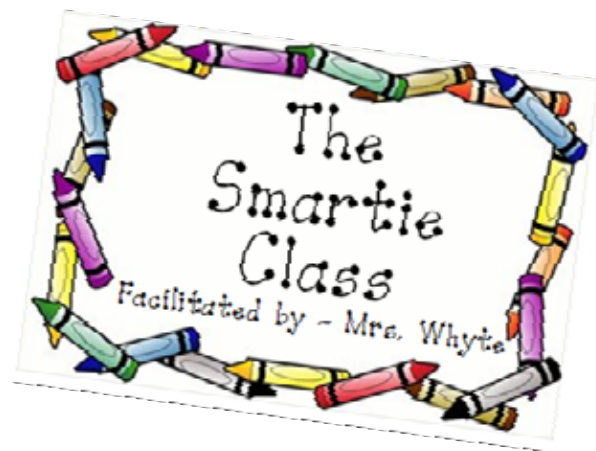
I hope that you and your students enjoy the ideas that are shared in the **Back to School Pack**. Please feel free to share a picture or one of my ideas on your blog - please just link them back to the Back to School Pack at www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Donna-Whyte or to my website. On the following page is a poem that I wrote for each of you. It is imperative that we never forget how important the job of teaching is to the future of our children. Have a great year and thank you!

Yours in Learning,

Donna J. Whyte

Name THEIR Class

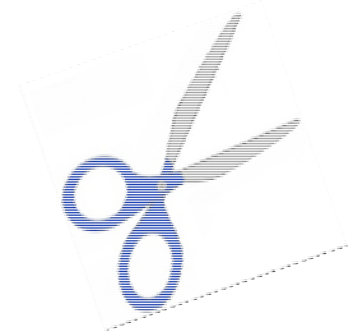
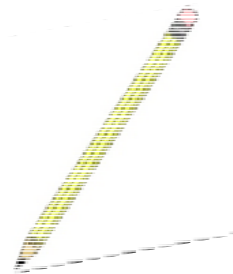
In my book "*You Can't Teach a Class You Can't Manage*", published by Crystal Springs Books, I outlined the need to build community. Community starts off in the smallest ways. It is important that children see the classroom as "their" place. One of the first activities I did in my classroom was to allow the children to name the class. We brainstorm ideas and then we vote. The sign goes on the door so that everyone knows it is THEIR classroom, not mine.

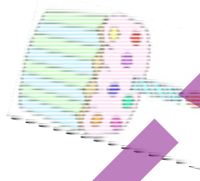


BORROW BOX

Place this label on baskets/boxes where children can help themselves to supplies when they are "missing" from their school box.

- Pencils
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- Markers





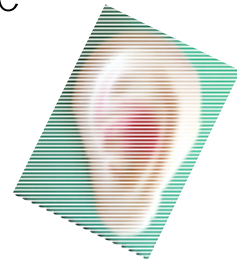
It's My Birthday!



SPECIAL VISITOR

Tattling Versus telling

It's important to explain the difference between tattling and telling. I tell the children that telling is to "Help", Tattling is to get someone in "trouble". Here are some ways to handle tattling in the class. Place an old cell phone or a phonics phone on your desk and when a child begins to tattle, tell them to put the message on your phone and you will listen to your messages later. Once I visited a classroom where a teacher had a plastic costume ear hot glued to her wall. She would tell children to tell the ear and someone on the other side of the wall would write it down for her to look at later. A trick a-co teacher of mine used was to hang a picture of the president on the wall and tell kids, "It sounds so important, please share it with the president".

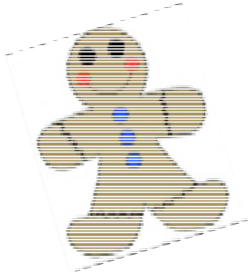


Gingerbread Man On the Run!

This activity allows you to introduce the children to many places that they will be visiting or will need to go throughout the year.



Buy gingerbread men cookies for the children to have as a snack. Keep the first note and then "place" all of the others in the appropriate places. I have included the notes in the following pages. Put the first note inside an empty cookie box. Tell the children it is time for the snack and then reveal the empty box. Act astonished that there are no cookies and then reveal that there is a note.

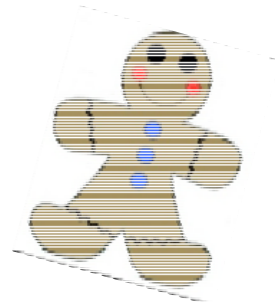


Cafeteria

This place has lots of tables and seats
Lots of good food ready to eat
Now I am going to need a rest
I think Room # _____ would be BEST!

Classroom

There are lots of friends for me to meet
Let's all sit down with a snack to eat
I am so excited for the year to begin
Where in the world have you all been?



Here's the
Scoop
on
Our
New Class



School Year _____

Good Morning, Friend!

MIRROR GREETING

Materials:

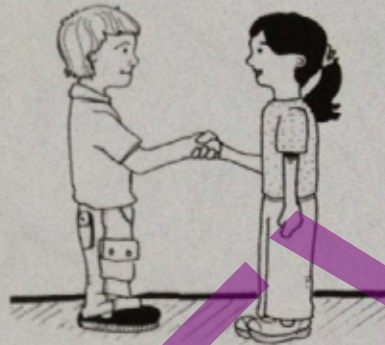
- Heavy-stock paper
- Mirror reproducible

Directions:

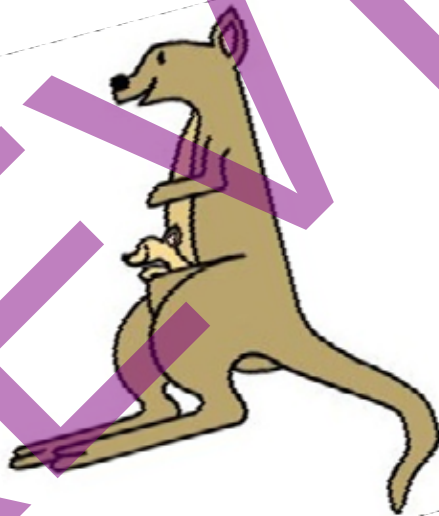
1. Make copies of the reproducible so you have one for each student, then cut out the mirrors and set them aside.
2. Ask your students to form pairs, and tell them that as they sing the first line of the song, "Good morning, friend, and how do you do?," they should greet their pair-partners by looking them right in the eyes and shaking hands, giving a "high five," or waving hello.
3. After the song is over, give each student a mirror and have him/her take a turn interviewing his/her partner to gather information about this person: the correct spelling of his/her name, favorite color, and favorite food.
4. Tell your students to write their partner's name and preferences on their mirror and then draw a picture of the partner inside the frame on the mirror.
5. Hang the mirrors around the classroom or place them on a bulletin board. Eventually, let the students take home the mirrors that their partners did of them.

HINTS:

1. Instead of writing words on the mirrors, have students make drawings or use pictures cut out of magazines or catalogs.
2. As children sing the first line of the song, have them replace the word "friend" with their partners' names.
3. Put foil on the mirrors and have the children hold up their mirrors and say good morning to themselves when they sing the first line of the song.
4. Laminate the mirrors or tape a large craft stick to the back to make them sturdier.



If You Take a
Kangaroo to
Class...



By the students in
Room # _____

What's in My Backpack...? Book

Give each child a copy of the backpack outline on page 57. Have them cut out the outline, decorate the backpack and add their name in the blank. Tell the children that they must think of something to hide in their backpack that other people wouldn't expect to find there. Using their imagination they draw their item inside the oval on page 58 and cut the oval out to fit behind the backpack. On a piece of writing paper, instruct the children to list three clues about the item in their backpack.

Create a class book by placing the backpack on one side of a large page, gluing the side strip to the page, allowing the backpack to fold back. Glue the item in the oval cut-out

A Year in Picture

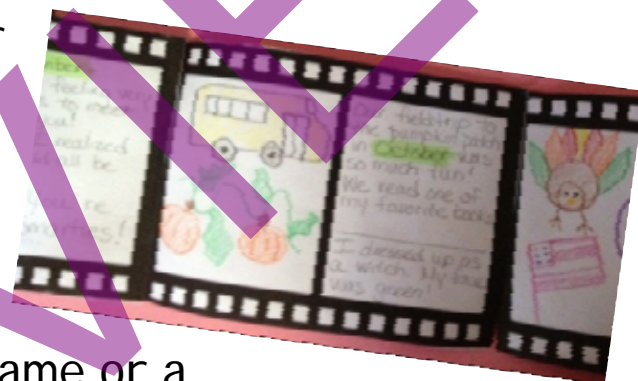
An All Year Activity

Copy blank film outlines (page 63) for each child to have one per month for the entire school year. Create a folder for each child to store the film strip pieces.

Each month do an art activity and a writing sample within the squares of the film strip. For example - for the first month of the year have the children create an

animal out of their thumbprint and draw the animal's habitat in one rectangle and print their name or a sentence in the other rectangle. Continue adding a new piece of film to the folder for each month of the year.

At the end of the year, cut out the film strip pieces for each child and tape them together to create a film of the year. Roll up the film and place it in a canister (see label below) with a slit to pull the film through. It is heartwarming to see parents' faces as they scroll through the months and see the growth of their children in art and writing.



The First 10 Days of School

(Song to "The Twelve Days of Christmas")

On the first day of school
my teacher gave to me
A smile and a big High Five.

On the second day of school
My teacher gave to me
2 arm flaps
A smile and a big High Five.

On the third day of school
My teacher gave to me
3 jumping jacks
2 arm flaps
A smile and a big High Five.

On the fourth day of school
My teacher gave to me
4 toe touches
3 jumping jacks
2 arm flaps
A smile and a big High Five.