

4. Leafing through the pages during Circle Time and remembering special events together will become a favorite pastime.

★ Jackie Wright, Enid, OK

A Tip for Saving Work Samples

Materials

Paper • rubber date stamp

What to do

1. Keeping work samples to show the parents can be hard.
2. An easy way to do this is to staple several pieces of paper together to make a journal for each child.
3. Each day the child has a chance to draw or write in his journal. Use a rubber date stamp to put the day's date on each page. This makes the samples easier to save so you can show progress to the parents.

★ Tracie O'Hara, Charlotte, NC

Weekly Parent Note

Materials

Pen • paper (or computer and paper)

What to do

1. Parents enjoy being a part of their children's education. Send home a weekly letter telling them what is going on in class. Parents really appreciate this.
2. In your note include any of the following:

- ☆ The current theme
 - ☆ Phonetics lessons and how they can help their children hear sounds
 - ☆ What the children are learning in math
 - ☆ Field trips being planned
 - ☆ General school instructions
 - ☆ Menus
 - ☆ Any part of the curriculum that the parents can help with
 - ☆ Any special occurrences, such as parties, visitors, and so on
3. If your school has a website, put the weekly letter on the site for families to read. Or, make a class letterhead to write the messages on.

☆ Barbara Saul, Eureka, CA

Take-Home Games

Materials

Canvas bags • fabric marker • activities and books to take home • paper • laminate

What to do

1. Label the outside of canvas bags "Take-Home Bag."
2. Place a book and activity in each bag with the directions written on a laminated piece of paper.
3. Send home a permission slip for parents that notifies them of the take-home activity packs and get their signed permission that they will be responsible for the items in the bag.
4. Make a chart to keep track of who has which bag. For example, label the bag with a number and a letter (1A, 1B, 1C).
5. Following are some examples for activity packs:
 - ☆ The book *26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban, magnetic or plastic letters, and play money. Children can label the money and place the letters in order.
 - ☆ Any alphabet book and magnetic letters to place in order.
 - ☆ Any number book and ten plastic cups with the numbers written on the outside and small counters to match the amount to the number.
 - ☆ A story with a matching puppet that the children can use to retell the story after they have read the book.

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