

WELCOME TO THE CLASSROOM!



KINDERGARTEN THEMES

Welcome to the classroom: Show your child the accompanying classroom scene and, using the guide below, ask him questions and “conversation starters” to help him get ready to start school.

Auditory Processing Skills

- 1 Draw a circle around the globe and draw a square around the clock.
- 2 Draw an X around two of the paper dolls the little girl is showing the teacher.
- 3 Draw an extra umbrella in the container next to the classroom door.
- 4 Draw a line connecting the two children that are working together on a single project.
- 5 Point to three backpacks that are open or unzipped.
- 6 Draw an X over the paper airplane that is about to be launched.
- 7 Draw a heart on the paper where the little boy is drawing hearts.

Visual Discrimination Skills

- 1 How many backpacks are in the classroom?
- 2 Are there any coat hooks that do not have coats hung on them?
- 3 How many people in this classroom are wearing glasses?
- 4 What color is the teacher's sweater?
- 5 Are any of the children wearing short-sleeved shirts?
- 6 How many empty chairs are there in the classroom?
- 7 What color are the art smocks the children are wearing?

Social and Emotional Skills

- 1 Point to each student in the classroom and ask your child how he thinks that student is feeling. Do the students look happy, surprised, excited, or shy? Once your child identifies an appropriate emotion, ask your child to explain why he thinks the student feels that particular way. Use this conversation as an opportunity to help your child realize that different people respond differently to situations. This understanding will help your child not only better identify and manage his own emotions but will also help him show empathy for the emotions of others.
- 2 Ask your child how he thinks he might feel on his first day of school. Explain that it is normal for someone feel a variety of emotions at the same time. For example, your child might be happy to see some old friends, he might be nervous about seeing some unfamiliar faces, he might be excited to see a particular activity like a play kitchen or a sand table in the classroom, or he might be tired from carrying a backpack to school.
- 3 Share with your child an example of when you felt different emotions. Perhaps you remember your first day of school or maybe the first time you went to a new book club or work meeting where you did not know everyone. Hearing that even adults feel emotions like nervousness, excitement, and anxiety will help your child realize they are common emotions.

SCHOOL SPARKS



Tip for parents: Lay out your child's clothes and pack your child's backpack and lunch the night before the first day of school. That way the morning of the first day of school will be calm and stress-free.

Why keep the fun all to yourself? Please feel free to share this worksheet with friends.

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