



THE MISS BINDERGARTEN'S KINDERGARTEN SERIES

written by Joseph Slate
and illustrated by Ashley Wolff

INTRODUCTION

The following activities are designed as part of a school-year curriculum. Each book has its own set of activities that contributes to a larger, end-of-the-year project: individual student mobiles. You'll need a plastic hanger or a similar object for the frame of the mobile. However, if you would like to selectively use the Miss Bindergarten books, the activities provided here can stand alone or be easily incorporated into your own curriculum.

ACTIVITIES

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten

Project: Creating a class "Gets Ready" book

Goal: Acclimate students to their new class by helping them become familiar with their new surroundings and each other. Students will also review the alphabet and begin work on their mobiles.

Introductions & sharing feelings

PLAN AHEAD: Before the school year starts, be sure to take a picture of your classroom when it is messy and materials are still in boxes.

1. Point out the transformation of Miss Bindergarten's room from colorless and messy to cheerful and neat. Show students the picture of their classroom before you moved in and ask them to take a look around now. Can they point out specific ways in which things are different? Point out specific play and work areas as you talk so students will become familiar with their surroundings.
2. Share with your class what you did as a teacher to prepare for the year. Talk about your feelings (of excitement, anxiety, etc.) and ask everyone else to share their feelings. Have students draw pictures of these emotions to aid in your discussion. They will be reassured that their feelings are shared by all and will begin to feel more comfortable with their new classmates in the process.

ABC's

While reading this book, point out the letter of each character's name. Have students identify the first letter of their first name and see if, using the entire class, you can form the entire alphabet. Ask your class what letters are missing. Have each student cut their letter out of construction paper (or hand out precut construction paper letters) to decorate with feathers, tissue papers, cotton balls, etc. This will become the main part of the students' mobiles. You can also simply string together these letters and create a colorful alphabet banner to display in your room throughout the year.

Similarities & Differences

1. Discuss how each character gets ready for kindergarten and gets to school. Are there similarities, differences, or both?
2. Discuss with your students how they prepare for and get to school. Talk about these similarities and differences while making notes on the board. Have each child illustrate one thing from their own routine and bind it together to create your own class "Gets Ready" book.

Rhyme

Point out how each character's name rhymes with something they are doing. Help students to create their own rhymes using their names. Print their rhymes and attach to their mobiles.

Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day of Kindergarten

Project: 100th day of kindergarten party

Goal: Help students understand the value of 100 through groupings and sets of similar items.

Math

- Begin discussing the value of the number 100 with groupings of ten. Show students a bundle of ten pencils and a bundle of 100 pencils.
- Create a "100" bulletin board. Choose a theme: the ocean, the forest, a zoo, etc. Prepare photocopies of 100 fish, trees, monkeys, etc. and have students decorate them and post on the board.
- Have each child trace their hands on several pieces of construction paper and decorate them. Place hands in a row throughout the classroom or down the hallway, counting and grouping by ten until you to reach one hundred.
- Make macaroni necklaces using 100 pieces of pasta.
- Have each student bring in their own collection of 100 things (for example, crayons, pennies, buttons, etc.). Students can do this at home with help from their parents.
- Ask each child to illustrate the number 100 by completing the following statement: "100 things I want to . . ." (Suggestions: eat, draw, make, have, sew, paint, color, etc.) Attach this to their individual mobiles.

100th Day Party!

Spend the day doing everything in sets of 100

- Exercise 100 times (10 jumping jacks, 10 toe touches, 10 shoulder touches, 10 claps, 10 hops, etc.).
- Observe 100 seconds of silence.
- Time how long it takes to walk 100 steps.

Make "100th Day Snack Bags"

- Distribute one brown paper bag per student and have a decorating session using the number 100.
- In ten separate bowls, place enough snack foods for each student to take ten of each. You could use mini pretzels, mini marshmallows, raisins or other dried fruit, small crackers, gummy candy, or popcorn.
- Allow each child to count out ten pieces from each bowl for their bag. Close the bag, shake it up, and enjoy!

The 100 Guessing Game

- Fill a variety of jars with various quantities of items like buttons, beads, bows, marbles, golf tees, etc. (Only one jar should have 100.) Number each jar. Let each student guess which jar contains 100. Pin the 1 on the 100
- On a large piece of poster board, allow the whole class to decorate the number 100. (You can do this ahead of time.) At your party, under adult supervision, blindfold each student and let each child try to pin the 1 on the 100. 100th Day Award
- Create a template certificate that reads " has completed 100 days of kindergarten" with space to insert each student's photograph.

Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten

Project: "Get Well" cards

Goal: Help students to understand sympathy, share their feelings, and learn the days of the week.

Days of the week

1. Talk about the days of the week: Is there something the class does routinely on certain days each week? Are there individual activities students do on a weekly basis?
2. Have students pick their favorite day of the week and illustrate why it is their favorite.

Sympathy for others

1. Discuss times when you have not felt well. Share the things that cheered you up and made you feel better. Ask students to draw a picture of a time when they were not feeling well and what made them feel better.
2. Create "Get Well" cards. This could be done at a specific time when someone in the class, another teacher, or the principal is sick. This could also be done at any time during the year for children at a local hospital.

Helping new people

(as with the substitute teacher)

1. This is a great book to use in preparation for a time when you may be out of the classroom. Introduce your students to the idea of another teacher supervising them and the ways in which they can help the substitute.
2. Talk about what it feels like to be a new member of the class. Ask them to remember how they felt on their first day of school.

Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten

Project: Create a small town in your classroom

Goal: Introduce students to the basic industries of their town or neighborhood and learn basic geometric shapes.

Identifying shapes

1. Introduce shapes and their names using large cutouts. Talk about what shapes you can see in everyday objects around the classroom.
2. Divide the class into shape teams (circle, triangle, etc.). Ask each team to draw the "places" they see their shape. Let them explore the classroom and playground for help (i.e., square windows, rectangular door, etc.).
3. For a rainy day, create a scavenger hunt within the classroom. Teams have to collect the objects of their assigned shape which you have hidden around the room.
4. After these activities, have each team draw and cut out their team shape. Ask each student to write the name of the shape on one side, then list or draw other objects of the same shape on the reverse side. Attach to individual mobiles.

Create your own town

Divide the class into the "places" mentioned in the book: library, post office, and firehouse. Designate these areas throughout the classroom and have the class help you decorate and staff them accordingly. Students can send "letters" to each other through the post office, where everyone has their own mailbox. Create a system for borrowing books from the library. When holding fire drills, be sure to rely on your firehouse. Rotate students in these positions throughout the year.

Miss Bindergarten Plans a Circus with Kindergarten

Project: Host your own classroom circus

Goal: Introduce students to animals and their characteristics, discuss basic alliteration, and spend a fun afternoon at your own circus.

Animals & Alliteration

1. Each student in Miss Bindergarten's class is actually an animal (i.e., Danny is a dog, Matty is a moose, etc.). As you read the story, point out these animals to the class and ask them to identify each animal. Introduce various characteristics of each animal (i.e., elephants drink through their noses, iguanas smell with their tongues, etc.).
2. Each character's name begins with the same letter as the type of animal it is. Ask students to imagine themselves as an animal whose name starts with the same letter as their first name and have them draw a picture. Attach to individual mobiles.

Circus Day

1. Create your own circus day with you as the ringmaster.
2. Create a variety of circus act "rings" in a circuit around the classroom so that each student gets to "perform" each task (i.e., hula-hooping, juggling, balancing books on their heads, etc.).
3. Serve animal crackers or popcorn and juice for a snack.

Individual Student Mobiles

At this point, each student should have five pieces for their own personalized mobile. Display them for the next parent-teacher conference or for other members of the school. Afterward, students may take their mobiles home.

MISS BINDERGARTEN BOOK LIST

All titles available from Dutton Children's Books & Puffin Books Divisions of Penguin Books for Young Readers

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten

0-14-056273-7 40 pp. \$6.99 pb

0-525-45446-2 40 pp \$16.99 hc

Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day of Kindergarten

0-525-46000-4 40 pp \$16.99 hc

Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten

0-525-46396-8 40 pp. \$16.99 hc

An IRA-CBC Children's Choice

Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten

0-525-46710-6 40 pp. \$16.99 hc

An IRA-CBC Children's Choice

Miss Bindergarten Plans a Circus with Kindergarten

0-525-46884-6 40 pp. \$16.99 hc

Visit author Joseph Slate at

www.josephslate.com

and illustrator Ashley Wolff on the web at

www.ashleywolff.com.

Find more teaching guides and tips at: <http://us.penguin.com/youngreaders>.