## Back To School Theme for Preschool From Miss Cheryl at Preschool Plan It



It's that time of year again--Back To School!<br>Remember that less is more in the beginning of the year.<br>Too many choices overstimulate the children.

The goal of the first few weeks is to help them to become comfortable with their classroom, their teachers and their peers. The activities should be focused on introducing children to the materials they will see throughout the year

This month's theme is Back To School and is, as always, filled with activities, ideas and preschool lesson plans for your preschool classroom.

## THERE'S A CHANGE IN THE FREE CLUB PACKS BEGINNING THIS MONTH!

l've been working all summer on creating preschool standards to help you to know which areas of development are being supported with each activity you use from my theme packets and they are now ready!
l've applied my new standards to this theme pack and will do so for each free monthly pack you receive from me! You'll find my Preschool Plan It Standards chart in this packet as well!

If you like the changes in this free pack and want even MORE, be sure to check out my new subscription program, Preschool Cubby!

As a subscriber to that program, you will receive FOUR full themes each month and each theme has all the activities listed in weekly AND daily planning forms-all completely editable by you so you can move activities around by cutting/pasting them where you want, or even deleting my activities and adding your own!

This will save you 2-8 hours of planning time each month!!
And, I have special pricing in place for Preschool Cubby for all subscribers to my Free Club (yup, that would be you!) that is up to $25 \%$ lower than the price l'll be offering to the public when I roll it out on September 15 2016. This pricing is only available until September 14 at midnight (EST).

## Click here to learn more about Preschool Cubby by clicking here-before 9/15/16!

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And now, onto this month's Back to School planning packet!
In this packet you'll find:

- Over 35 themed activities for all your Interest Learning Centers (enough for at least a week's worth of planning!)
- Preschool Plan It Standards
- Calendar Pieces- AB pattern
- Preschool Conversation Rules Poster
- Activity Mats: My Classroom
- School Item Match File Folder Game
- Biddely Diddely Bumblebee Song Poster
- Biddely Diddely Bumblebee Song Card

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Thank you so much for downloading this packet! I hope you enjoy it and find it helpful!
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## Let the Back To School Theme Planning Begin!



## Welcome Wreath

Materials Needed: Half of a paper towel roll for each child, yarn, paint, paintbrushes
Cover your table with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth that you can wipe down and reuse all year! Each child paints a roll. When each one is dry, string the rolls together on a piece of yarn and hang from your classroom door.

Add pictures of the students to their roll!
Standards: 14\& 15 PDH; 31 ART

## Snack Placemat

Materials Needed: Prior to this activity, be sure to have a picture of each child available; you'll need construction paper, paint and finger paint.

1. Children paint a picture using watercolor paint. When done, show children how to paint the palm of one hand and press onto paper to make a handprint.
2. Put mat aside to dry.
3. Provide finger painting paper to let children continue with finger painting fun!
4. When mats are dry, have children glue (using glue sticks, wet glue will make the ink in the photos bleed) their photo where they want. Also encourage them to print their names (as best they can!) on their mat.
5. Laminate and use as snack mats all year long.

Standards: 13 \& 14 PDH; 31 ART; 43 LLD

## Preschool Collage

Materials needed: magazines (with preschool items in them such as supply catalogs!) or pre-cut pictures from magazines (lots of them!), glue sticks
The children choose the pictures they like best and discuss with their peers as they glue it onto a large paper to make a group classroom collage of their favorite things in preschool! Print name on paper.
Standards: 3 ATL; 13 \& 14 PDH; 31 ART; 36 \& 43 LLD

## Name Tag Creation

Provide paper shapes with children's names printed on them in black marker.
Have children decorate with crayons or paint (if paint, then print names on them after they've dried). When dry, have children use a glue stick to glue on a picture of themselves that you have taken. Laminate and use throughout the week and year. We use these for circle time, in the library for matching games and more!
Standards: 31 ART; 43 LLD

## Shaving Cream Painting

Spray shaving cream into small mountains on the table (let the children spray it-great hand muscle development!). The children paint, using their hands, on the table. You can provide craft sticks, paint brushes, add a few drops of color and more! Do this all through the year!
Standards: 3 ATL; 12 PHD; 27 SCl; 31 \& 33 ART


## Blocks

## Unit Blocks

For a Back to School Preschool Activities Theme, I like to begin the year with the wooden unit blocks and usually have them out for about a month in the block area. You can add to it by adding cars one week, little plastic people the next, etc. These blocks are great for assessing their knowledge about shapes, counting, etc.
Standards: 1 ATL; ATL; 13 \& 14 PDH; 23-26 MAT; 28 \& 30 SCI


## Circle

Circle Time is such a great time for children to learn the social skills of being together as a large group AND to learn more about your Back to School Preschool Activities theme!

## Puppet Time

Kids LOVE puppets, even your shy kids!
Bring a puppet to circle time. Perhaps your puppet can tell the children that he/she is nervous about school because he/she doesn't know anybody. Then have the puppet introduce itself to each child and ask each child their name.

## Standards:1 ATL; 4 SED; 19 SSK; 36 LLD

## Tour the Classroom

Take the children on a tour of the classroom. Walk to each area of your room and talk about what we can do here. Example: Here is the easel. We can paint and use what is in this tray. We wear a paint smock to stop the paint from getting on us. This is the Block Center. Here we build with blocks, etc. Encourage the children to name what they see in each area and make suggestions about what they can do with those materials. Standards:1 ATL; 4 SED; 19 SSK; 36 LLD
Name Ball Game
Say your own name and then roll the ball to a child. They catch it and say their name and then roll it to someone else. Continue until all children have had a turn.

## Standards: 9 PDH; 35 LLD; 45 ELD

## Find the Item

Name an item in the classroom and have one child find it and bring it to circle. Let each child have a turn. This will help them to become familiar with what is in the classroom. Give clues as to where the item is for the child:
Suzy, would you please bring a paintbrush to circle? The paintbrushes are in the art center. The art center is over there.
Standards: 10 PDH; 24 MAT, 35 LLD; 44 ELD

## Connecting Kids

Try playing music and having the children pair up with a partner. You may need to pair them up. Have the children tell their partner their name or tell them their names if they are too shy.
Give directions about how to connect such as "Toe to toe" (they should make their feet touch). Elbow to elbow, etc.
Standards: 3 ATL; 6 SED; 34 ART; 35,37 LLD

## Name Tag Flannel Rhyme

Make a name tag for each child for your flannel board (you can use Velcro or a dryer sheet for the back to make it stick. If you don't have a flannel board, simply place the name tags in the middle of your circle area).
Down around the corner in the preschool that's the best.
There were (number of children) little name tags on the teacher's desk.
Along came (name a child) one day. He/she took his/her name tag away. (Have that child come and get their name tag and sit back down).
Continue until all the name tags are gone.
Standards: 38,41 \& 42 LLD; 45 ELD

## Clean Up Time

Ingredients and Items needed: A bin or box and items from each area of the classroom (enough for each child to have one). Let the children know that we all clean up after ourselves but also help put everything away before we go home.

Let's practice now! John, would you please put this block back in the block center? Suzy, would you please put this book back in the library?
This will help to introduce cleaning up to the children.
Standards:1 ATL; 17 PDH; 19 SSK, 22 MAT; 36, 38, 41 LLD, 44 \& 45 ELD


Cooking with children helps develop their math skills and helps them to learn how to follow directions.

It also allows for some great conversation! Ask many questions while cooking with your children to encourage conversation!

Be sure to ask specific themed questions while making these fun snacks!

## Toast

Yup, just toast! Ok, let's have SOME fun with it! Provide cookie cutter in school theme shapes (school, bus, people). The children cut their toast with the cookie cutters and then spread margarine on their slice for snack!
Standards: 13, 16 \& 17 PDH; 31 ART; 35 LLD


Drama

## Housekeeping

Include an oven, table, refrigerator, etc. A home center is something familiar to the children and allows them to interact with each other by recreating what their family does in a kitchen at home.
Standards: 1 ATL; 6 SED; 10 \& 17 PDH; 18 \& 19 SSK; 32 ART; 36 LLD; 45 ELD


## Painting

Although paint, brushes and white paper may seem boring to you, remember that this may be the children's first time in school so painting while standing up and on such large paper will be novel to them! Keep your Back To School Preschool Activities themed Easel projects focused on basics--paint and brushes--in the beginning!
Standards: $13-15$ PDH; 28 SCI, 31 ART; 36 LLD


Gross Motor

## Space Exploration

Today, just let the children enjoy using your gross motor space outside. They really don't need structured activities! It's fun to bring out materials they can use and great for the development. Just let them run, play, get to know each other, find bugs, etc. while they get a "lay of the land" of where there outside space is this year!
Standards: 3 ATL; 4,6,7 \& 8 SED; 9-12 PDH

## Toy Exploration

Let the children enjoy using your gross motor toys such as balls, hula hoops, the climbing structures, and any other items you have outside!
Standards: 3 ATL; 4,6,7 \& 8 SED; 9-12 PDH

## Bubble Time!

Bring bubbles and bubble wands outside or use them inside. Discuss how they are made, the shapes, sizes, etc.
Standards: 4,6,8 SED; 10-13 PDH; 36 LLD

## Scavenger Hunt

Encourage children to find items in your play area or inside today! You could place a few items on a table and encourage to find matches or you might create your own "checklist" by printing pictures of the items you will hide, placing them onto clipboards and encouraging the children to mark off the items they find.
Standards: 10,12,13 PDH; 24 MAT; 35 LLD; 27 \& 29 SCI

## Ride the Bus

Set chairs up like a bus. Line the children up and instruct them to follow you around the room until you come to the "bus".
Have them board the bus and give their names to the bus driver. Or put numbers on the bus seats and give them a number to match.
Pretend to come to their stop and ask by name for that child to get off at their bus stop!
Standards: 3 ATL; 10-11 PDH; 26 MAT; 32 ART; 35 \& 36 LLD


## Library

## Book Suggestions for the Library

Dinofours: It's Time for School! by Steve Metzger
My First Day at Nursery School by Becky Edwards
School Bus by Donald Crews
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen
Standards: 1 ATL; 6 SED; 38-40 LLD; 44 ELD


School Item Match Game: Use the file folder game in this pack.
Standards: 14 PDH; 19 SSK; 24 \& 26 MAT

Make Playdough! Use the recipe in this pack to make playdough with your children, or use your own favorite recipe. When made, let the children freely explore it this week!
Standards: 13 PDH; 23 MAT; 26 MAT; 35 LLD

My Classroom Activity Mat! Use the activity mat in this packet along with the playdough you made. The children use the playdough to create whatever they want to fit into this "schoolhouse" shape! Standards: 13-15 PDH; 19 SSK; 31 ART

## School Day Sequencing

Materials: Laminated pictures of activities at school
Encourage the children to put the pictures in the order that activities happen at school. We usually have: Arrival (picture of a bus and cars); Circle Time; Activity or Center Time; Snack Time; Outdoor Time; Lunch Time; Nap Time; Departure Time (children with their families).
Standards: 14 PDH; 19 SSK; 24 \& 26 MAT

## Measuring Fun

Show children how to measure items in the classroom such as the floor! The table! The chairs! Etc. Use your feet to measure "I wonder how many steps long our classroom is?"
Use rulers "I wonder how many rulers tall the chair is? The length of the table?"
Standards: 10\&12 PDH; 20,21,23 MAT; 29 SCl; 36 LLD

## Counting and Sorting

Provide sorters for the children to use such as the basic teddy bear sorters or little people.
Encourage the children to sort them by color and then by size. Encourage them to count them. ("How many large blue teddy bears are there? How many red teddy bears?"). This is a great way to assess their counting and one-to-one correspondence skills.
Standards: 13, 14 PDH; 20,21,24, 25 MAT


## Music \& Move

In addition to the songs below, which can be introduced at Circle Time, a Back To School Theme is a great theme to use to introduce songs the children will sing all year!

## Musical Instruments

Set out your instruments for the children to explore and use. Yes, it will be loud...it takes time, as with any material in your classroom, to explore and investigate items before using them for a purpose! Let them explore!
Standards: $1 \& 3$, ATL; 4 SED; 11 \& 12 PDH; $22 \& 26$ MAT; 34 ART; 3537 LLD; 44 \& 45 ELD
A-Tooty-Ta Choose your favorite version of this song (and there are many! Dr. Jean is our favorite). Have the children follow the instructions to this! It is great for learning repeating patterns, following directions and more! And be sure to do this with them....it's silly AND fun!
Standards: 1,3, ATL; 5,6 SED; 34 ART; 11,12 PDH; 22, 26 MAT; 35,37 LLD; 44,45 ELD
I like any and ALL songs from ALL Greg \& Steve CD!

Sing! Sing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and do the Hokey Pokey!
These are fun songs and movement activities that you'll use all year!
Standards: 1 \& 3 , ATL; $5 \& 6$ SED; 11 \& 12 PDH; 22 \& 26 MAT; 34 ART; 3537 LLD; 44 \& 45 ELD

## Musical Hokey Pokey

Do the Hokey Pokey using musical instruments today!
Standards: 1 \& 3, ATL;5\&6 SED; 11-12 PDH; 22 \& 26 MAT;34ART 35\&37 LLD; 44\&45 ELD

## Biddely Diddely Bumblebee song poster in pack

Biddely Diddely Bumblebee
Won't you tell your name to me?
(child says name or you say their name)--Cheryl
(Everyone claps the syllables of the name and says the name--repeat twice)
Che-ryl Che-ryl
Clap-clap Clap Clap
Continue for each child.
Standards: 1 ATL; $36,38,41$ LLD, $44 \& 45$ ELD


## Sand \& Water

## Water Table

I know, sounds simple and basic! But remember, it is the beginning of the year. It is all about introductions. Have water and measuring tools and perhaps a water wheel. Teach water play rules about keeping the water in the table (no splashing) and about clean up! Have a child sized mop and paper towels available for them to help clean up spills.
Standards: 17 PDH; 19 SSK; $27,28 \& 30$ SCI

## Sand Table

Same advice as with the water table. Have a small broom, dustpan and trash can nearby for the children to help sweep up spills.
Also, sometimes the sand (even play sand) can get dusty. To prevent this, lightly mist the sand with a spray bottle before use. Be sure to keep the table uncovered overnight so that the water can dry up. Standards: 17 PDH; 19 SSK; 27,28 \& 30 SCI


Science

## Introducing Magnifying Glasses!

Materials Needed: Provide several magnifying glasses and some smaller toys in your science table. The children can practice using them and take them around the room to check out toys! If you don't have magnifying glasses, provide some binoculars!
Standards: 2 ATL; 6 SED; 13, 15 PDH; 24 MAT; 27, 29, 30 SCl; 36 LLD

Color Scientists Materials: Small cups of colored water and eye droppers. Let the children create new colors by dropping colors into a clear cup. This is best done in small groups because most children will be using eye droppers for the first time!
Standards: 13, 14 PDH; 24 MAT; 27, 28, 29, 30 SCI; 36 LLD


## Name Practice

Materials Needed: One name card for each child with their name printed on it along with their picture. Laminate each card. Provide low-odor, dry erase markers and tissues for the children to practice printing their names. I suggest printing their names in lower case as well as upper case. Although most of your children will initially learn to print their names in upper case (easier to print block letters than lower case letters), they will never see their name in all upper case in print.
It is good to show them how their name looks in lower case as well. By the end of the prek year, most children are trying to use lower case letters!
Standards: 13-15 PDH; 41-43 LLD

## PRESCHOOL PLAN IT STANDARDS

|  | Approaches To Learning (ATL) |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 ATL | Demonstrates eagerness, curiosity, \& flexibility as a learner. |
| 2 ATL | Developing ability and self-direction to set and follow through with goals to complete an action or task. |
| 3 ATL | Joins in and cooperates with others in play and learning. |
|  | Social and Emotional Development (SED) |
| 4 SED | Expresses affection, empathy and sympathy to others and balances needs and rights of others and self. |
| 5 SED | Engages in positive relationships and interactions with adults involved in their care. |
| 6 SED | Engages in positive relationships and interacts in socially appropriate manner with minimal conflict with peers. |
| 7 SED | Demonstrates increasing ability to self-regulate impulses and emotions, return to equilibrium after experiencing stress |
| 8 SED | Demonstrates ability to ask for as well as offer help when needed. |
|  | Physical Development \& Health (PDH) |
| 9 PDH | Developing large muscle coordination and coordination through activities such as pulling, throwing, catching, kicking, etc. |
| 10 PDH | Developing travelling skills by using locomotor skills to maneuver in their environment and in a large group. |
| 11 PDH | Participates in structured and unstructured activities. |
| 12 PDH | Developing large muscle control and balancing skills through activities such as walking (front and backward) skipping, running, climbing, hopping, stretching, reaching etc. |
| 13 PDH | Uses a variety of tools \& materials to build grasp \& release skills, scissor skills \& ability to use thumb/forefinger in pincer grasp. |
| 14 PDH | Developing eye-hand coordination using a variety of materials. |
| 15 PDH | Developing pre-writing \& drawing skills using wide variety of tools |
| 16 PDH | Learning about importance of nutrition and healthy routines and how they benefit their bodies (i.e. diff between health/junk food, dental health knowledge, etc.) |
| 17 PDH | Demonstrates increasing ability to complete self-help/personal care tasks \& life skills independently (washing hands, toileting, dressing, brushing teeth, using eating utensils, etc.) |
|  | Social Science \& Knowledge (SSK) |
| 18 SSK | Developing understanding of their personal and family structure. |
| 19 SSK | Developing awareness of their family, the community, the classroom and their responsibilities in each. |
|  | Mathematical Knowledge \& Skills (MAT) |
| 20 MAT | Developing ability to recognize numbers recite them in order and recognize that numbers represent quantities. |
| 21 MAT | Uses numbers, one-to-one counting \& subitizing (identifying number of objects in a set without counting them) to determine the quantity. |
| 22 MAT | Developing ability to identify, predict, create \& extend patterns. |
| 23 MAT | Developing ability to measure wide variety of objects using many different attributes (weight, length, size, etc.) |
| 24 MAT | Developing ability to classify, compare, sort and order a wide variety of object by different attributes. |
| 25 MAT | Identifies basic shapes and beginning to identify their parts. |


| 26 MAT | Developing understanding of ordination \& positional language ( $1^{\text {st }}, 2^{\text {nd }}, 3^{\text {rd }}$ ), directionality (up, down) and spatial awareness (next to, on top of) \& how to apply to items, stories, etc. |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Scientific Knowledge \& Skills (SCI) |
| 27 SCI | Developing observation \& inquiry skills using their senses \& tools (including technology) to gather \& investigate information. |
| 28 SCI | Makes predictions and inferences about changes in materials. |
| 29 SCI | Communicates \& documents information gathered using a variety of methods (drawing, maps, graphs, charts \&through discussion) |
| 30 SCI | Developing knowledge of science concepts through exploration of the different sciences (Life Science, Physical Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Technology Science) |
|  | Creative Arts (ART) |
| 31 ART | Visual Arts: Uses a variety of materials to make art creations to reflect thoughts, feelings, experience or knowledge |
| 32 ART | Drama: Participates in dramatic play using creativity, imagination and objects/props to express themselves |
| 33 ART | Dance \& Movement: Participates in expressive dancing and movement activities |
| 34 ART | Music: Participates in music through activities by listening, performing, singing or using musical instruments. |
|  | Language \& Literacy Development (LLD) |
| 35 LLD | Understands and follows at least 2-3 step directions. |
| 36 LLD | Uses increasingly complex and varied vocabulary, grammar and syntax in conversations and storytelling. |
| 37 LLD | Speech is clear and understood by others. |
| 38 LLD | Developing awareness of print (in books \& environment) and recognizes that print conveys meaning (i.e. recognizing own name) |
| 39 LLD | Recognizes how books are read (front to back, one page at a time) and characteristics of books (title, author, illustrator) |
| 40 LLD | Listens to \& describes items/actions in books; retells stories |
| 41 LLD | Notices and discriminates sounds of language (rhyme, alliteration, etc.) and that letters have distinct sounds associated with them (such as beginning and/or ending sounds) |
| 42 LLD | Recognizes \& identifies letters of the alphabet in print, environment, and/or own name. |
| 43 LLD | Demonstrates increased emergent writing skills such as random marks, controlled scribbles, basic shapes, letter-like marks or letters to represent words, stories, ideas, experiences or objects. |
|  | English Language Development (ELD) |
| 44 ELD | Demonstrates progress in understanding \& listening to English |
| 45 ELD | Demonstrates progress in speaking English |

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Calendar Pieces Back To School Theme AB Pattern

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The blank card below is to add the month you would like! Simply cut out, laminate and print the month's name with a dry erase marker so that you can erase and use whenever you like throughout the year.
Because this is a Back To School Theme, the months of August and September are printed on the next page!


August

## Kool Aid Play Dough—Group Recipe

Ingredients:
$\begin{array}{ll}3-4 \mathrm{c}(750-1000 \mathrm{mg}) \text { flour } & 1 \mathrm{c}(250 \mathrm{mg}) \text { salt } \\ 2 \mathrm{c}(500 \mathrm{ml}) \text { hot water } & 2 \text { Tbsp. }(30 \mathrm{ml}) \text { oil }\end{array}$
1 package of unsweetened Kool Aid

Mix 3 cups ( 750 mg ) of the flour and all of the salt together.
In a separate bowl, add Kool Aid to hot water and stir till dissolved.
Add oil.
Pour wet ingredients into dry. Stir, continue to add remaining flour as needed

## Kool Aid Play Dough —Individual Recipe

Place flour, salt, water, oil and Kool Aid into individual bowls. Place the appropriate measuring tool in front of each bowl.
The children measure each ingredient into their own mixing bowl.

For individual batches, the children should measure the following into their own mixing bowls:
$3 / 8-1 / 2 \mathrm{c}(94-125 \mathrm{mg})$ flour $1 / 8 \mathrm{c}(31 \mathrm{mg})$ salt
$1 / 4 \mathrm{c}(63 \mathrm{ml})$ hot water $3 / 4 \mathrm{tsp}(4 \mathrm{ml})$ oil
A pinch of unsweetened Kool Aid
Mix 3/8 c (94 mg) of the flour and all of the salt together.
Add water and Kool Aid
Stir, continue to add remaining flour as needed.




## Biddely Diddely Bumblebee <br> Biddely Diddely Bumblebee

## Won't you say your name to me?

## CHERYL!

(Child says name or you say their name)

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Che-ryl Che-ryl } \\
& \text { (Clap-clap Clap-clap) }
\end{aligned}
$$

(Everyone claps the syllables of the name and says the name--repeat twice)
Continue for each child.

## Song Card \& Song Poster

How to use:

- Print and laminate the song card below (it is 5" $\times 3^{\prime \prime}$ ).
- Place in a can or box with other cards of songs your children love!
- In transitional times (waiting to go outside or wash hands, etc.), pull out your song box or song can (I use a decorated coffee can!).
- Shuffle the cards in your hands saying "Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle" and your children yell "STOP"!
- When they yell stop, whichever card is on top is the one you sing! The kids LOVE this!

Each month you'll receive one of these cards that correspond with the song poster for the month to add to your Song Card Collection!
On the next page, you'll find the Song Poster! Print and laminate for use over the years!

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## Preschool Conversation Rules

## When someone else is speaking, our

## EYES are on the person speaking.

EARS are listening to the person speaking.

