



End Of Year Ideas

The end of the "school" year is a very important time for children. It is a time to recognize and share how much they have accomplished. The ideas that follow came from the wonderful women on my yahoo email lists [childcareland2](#) and [shelleylovettsprintables](#).

I do a year round pre-k program but June-August is a little less intense of a program so the children have plenty of time for summer fun!!

Some of the things we do:

Create a Scrapbook - I take pictures of the children from September - May doing different activities. I then make individual scrapbooks for each family that features their child. The parents really love this. It doesn't have to be huge or elaborate and the

children can help make them.

End of Year Party and Presentation - We have an end of year party and invite the parents. We also have an awards presentation where each child gets an award for his/her special accomplishments during the year.

Memory Book or Portfolio - This is a book that samples of the children's work and art projects ... the children can help put these together and it is also another big hit with the parents.

Class Pictures - We take a class picture and print out 5x7 inch size pictures. I buy frames from the dollar store and we decorate them and put the pictures in for each child to take home.

At the end of this file are a diploma for preschool and kindergarten that I have created. You may use these in your classroom/daycare. They are not to be redistributed or put in a collection either for free or payment.

Shelley Lovett
childcareland.com

AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

Buy some inexpensive autograph books, one for each student.. In addition to the children singing their autographs ahead of time, I'm putting pictures that I've taken of the children over the year and writing things they've said.

I took each child's signature and copied it several times to put in each of the student's autograph book.

GRADUATION CAPS - SEVERAL IDEAS

The children made their own graduation caps from a square of heavy cardboard and the little foam bowls that you can buy at any discount store. They decorated the squares and painted the bowls. I punched holes in the bowl and slipped a ribbon to tie. They did not stay on very well but they sure were cute, and not too expensive.

1. Cut a 7x7" square from posterboard
2. Cut two 7x1 1/2" strips from the same color posterboard
3. Cut a 2 1/2" strip long enough to fit around the child's head, usually you have to cut a strip and a half to join to fit.
4. Poke a hole in the center of the posterboard square, insert a brad, but do not open it yet.
5. Place the two 1 1/2" strips in a cross formation, put them on the brad that you have in the square. Open the brad to secure the strips on the square.
6. Fit the 2 1/2" strips around the child's head, and staple to secure.
7. To attach the head strip to the mortarboard, you just pull up the strips that are attached to the square, put them in the inside of the head band, and staple to secure. The brim of the headband should be flush with the square.

We use blue -- but of course any color would work. Use one 9" square of blue construction paper for the mortarboard (sp?). Cut a 4" wide strip of extra long blue paper that can easily go around the child's head. Measure the paper to child's head and staple. On one side cut slits about 1" down every few inches. Fan these tabs out and glue to underside of mortarboard. We also make a yellow yarn tassel and use a paper brad to secure this to top of mortarboard.

EDIBLE GRAD. CAPS make sure there are no allergies first Place a miniature peanut butter cup, bottom up, on a plate. Top with a small bit of frosting or peanut butter, then press on a chocolate-covered graham cracker. For a tassel, tightly roll up a small square of fruit leather. Cut fringe on one end and attach the other end to the center of the graham cracker with another dab of frosting or peanut butter.

Start Spreading the News
Sung to: "New York New York"
We're leaving today.
We want to be a part of

First grade, first grade

We've worked very hard
Our teachers are proud.
So open up those doors to
First grade first grade.

We know our alphabet
And numbers too.
We all can write our names
And tie our shoes!

So when summer's done
And we're finished with play
Our mom's will send us to
First grade, first grade.

If we can make it here
We'll make it anywhere
So here we come
First grade, first grade.

Graduation Activity

Since the end of the year is coming up I thought that I would send this to the list. It is really cute done up in a card with a picture of the student doing some sort of activity.

When you get bigger, it's hard to recall
everything you did when you were small
But if days get forgotten, in time to come
may this photo give you a feeling of fun
Echoes of poems or games or songs,
memories of rights and notions of wrongs,
the joy of dressing up to pretend-
I hope this will help with
"I remember when....."

A, B, C Farewell

A is for the alphabet which we know how to say.
B is for busy bodies -- at work and at play.
C is for colors - red, yellow, blue, and green.

D is for drawing pictures, the best you've ever seen.
E is for exercise to keep our bodies strong.
F is for the fun we've had as we have gone along.
G is for the good friends we made throughout the year.
H is for happy faces, filled with love and cheer.
I is for imagination used at every turn.
J is for good jobs and the praises we have earned.
K is for kindergartners -- hip, hip hooray!
L is for learning -- more and more each day.
M is for minding and showing our respect.
N is for numbers. One, two, three...correct?
O is for the obstacles we learned to overcome.
P is for puppets and for playing rhythms on a drum.
Q is for all the questions we've asked throughout the year.
R is for reading stories, even those that bring a tear.
S is for different snacks, several we have tried.
T is for talking. It's not to be denied.
U is for unusual; it fits some things we've done.
V is for our volunteers -- parents and everyone!
W is for the world of words we've barely dipped into.
X is for extra special kids -- it's him, it's her, it's you.
Y is for yes, it has been a great year!
Z is for Kindergarten zest. We're ready, have no fear!

2nd Poem

Summer's here! Another year of school is at an end.
We've learned a lot and grown a lot and made a lot of friends.
We'll say good-bye, now summer's here, it's time for us to part.
But we'll remember all our friends and keep them in our hearts.

END OF THE YEAR GIFT

Another inexpensive gift for the kids is to mix up a batch of playdoh and then divide it into baggie-size portions. Attach the recipe for how to make homemade playdoh to each baggie, and a cookie cutter if you like! You could also put the recipe inside of a card to the kids with a personalized note.

Great Expectations

It's time to say. Good-bye.
Our year has come to an end.
We've made more cherished memories
And many more new friends.
We've watched your children learn and grow
And change from day to day

We hope that all the things we've done
Have helped in some small way.
So it's with happy memories
We send them out the door.
With great hope and expectations.
For what next year holds in store.

Mary
The Puzzle Place

You can upload or take a picture of your graduate in their cap & gown (\$15 @ www.cptoys.com) to Walmart and have them a gift card made with that picture on it for only 89 cents. They look great, the families love them and the kids are so excited to use them.

I have the graduate decorate an envelope, I entitle it OUR WISH FOR YOU!. The other children draw a picture on an index card of what they wish for them on their big day. You will get responses like go to McDonald's, have a party, get lots of toys etc. You then write their descriptions on the card for them. Seal the envelope and give to the graduate on their last day.

Take pictures of each child with the graduate of their favorite thing to do together. Tape each picture to a sheet of cardstock and compile into a book. Write their version on the bottom of each page. At the top you could write or do on your computer....
My Favorite Thing to do with (name) is.....

We put on a show for the families. We do both our American and Preschool pledge, we sing our Weather Watcher song, and do our Calendar. We read one of our favorite books to them (with props), I choose one the children can do really well like BROWN BEAR. We do the Chicken Dance, Our version of the Preschool Pomp & Circumstance chant and Dr. Jean's Tooty Ta-we get the families in on this one, soooooo much fun!

We count to 10 in Spanish and do a Sign Language Gospel song "Thank God for Kids" by the Oakridge Boys. We then Have the diploma ceremony. I also buy something from Oriental

Trading with their names on it to present as well, this year it was a picture frame and a medallion.

We finish off with a Photo Show of the years events set to the song "Let Them Be Little" by Lonestar. Be sure to have a box of tissues handy, you will need them.

We then have finger foods and fellowship-each family is asked to bring something.

All families enrolled are involved but only the graduate(s) get to wear the cap and gown(s) of course.

Preschool Pledge:

I pledge to myself on this day

To try to be kind in every way

To every person big or small

I will help them if they fall

When I love myself and others too

That is the best that I can do

(I made a flag with a rainbow on it-my tag)

Preschool Pomp & Circumstance:

CHANT

I don't know but I've been told

Preschool is the place to go

I learned my numbers and my ABC's

Now I'm smart as I can be

Sound off 1 2

Sound off 3 4

Sound off 1 2 3 4

Weather Song:

CHANT

Weather Watcher (kids repeat)

What do you see "

Tell me what the weathers like "

Won't you please "

The kids then run to the window to report the weather.

The leader of the day gets to move the dial on our weather board to appropriate picture....sun, cloud, rain, snow or wind

Thelma Pate

We have a picnic lunch outside or at a park. We do the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, carrot sticks, string cheese, grapes, and milk. Then they play on the playground area, then we come back together for cookies and a drink. Then back home and out for naps.....

I take their picture too to send home, only if they will be leaving us for the summer.

Special Blessings Daycare

At our end of the year program we sing and do fingerplays we have learned over the course of the year. Then we give out our diplomas. We have coffee and donuts for all. The kids love it and so do our guests. We also have an art display and the kids get to bring home their "Me Books" a collection of writing samples and art work we have collected over the year. We also put out our scrapbook!!

Julie Fitzpatrick

My preschoolers like to play musical squares I use carpet squares and they walk behind them until the music stops
I use lots of Dr. Jean songs also a tape called music and movement for the classroom by Greg and Steve.

Becky

I keep a digital scrapbook at snapfish.com of photos from the year. At the end of the year, it only takes a click to select the photos I want for each child in a "flipbook," complete with typed photo captions. Parents who took photos and want them included in the book just email them to me or provide them on a CD. Each book of 20 photos costs less than ten dollars each, and includes a class photo. I saved a lot of time and personal expense by providing a "yearbook" this way.

Lynda Lowin

Hammondsport Children's Nursery, Inc.

You can use these poems with end of year presents.

For pillow case with handprints
Now I lay me down to sleep,
I'll count these hands instead of sheep.
And dream about how the year did pass,
In (teacher's name) preschool class
Or end with
And dream of all the friends I made
When in (teacher''s name) class I played.

Beach towel with handprints similar
Summer's coming there's no more school
So I'll go splashing in the pool
And think of all the friends I made
When in (teacher''s name) class I played.

For Photo of child with teacher

Here is a picture that you can treasure.
Teaching you has been a pleasure!
The year now ends, and we must part,
Always know you are in my heart!
~Author Unknown

Sara Kreutz

I buy "Design-A-Mug" from Hobby Lobby, and place photos of the children though out the year around the outer edge on a sheet of construction paper. Than laminate the photos.

Sarah Fleming

I always make an end of the year book for the students and Parent's. They love them. The book has some of their paperwork that they did in class, quotes from the children, and most important is the pictures of them throughout the year. This year I enclosed a paper about each parent, how old, favorite foods, what do they like to do, etc. The Parent's loved this. I think the book gets bigger every year.

Linda Froemke

For the end of the year we do a recognition day where each family is recognized for the positive changes that have occurred over the year. and we have an ice cream social.

Cathy

Kindergarten Diploma

Congratulations To

For The Successful Completion Of Kindergarten At

Signed and Dated



Preschool Diploma

Congratulations To

For The Successful Completion Of Preschool At

Signed and Dated

