

# Back-To-School Helpful Ideas Packet



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# Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Day Of School

*Welcome  
to your new  
class!*

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Awarded to: \_\_\_\_\_





I had a great  
1<sup>st</sup> day  
at school!

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



I'm a  
**SUPER STAR**  
student!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!



Happy

1<sup>st</sup>

Day!





Hip hip hooray!  
I survived my first day.  
I packed up and was ready to go!  
Ask me what I did and what I know.



My first day was:

- ☐ Great  
☐ OK  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Hip hip hooray!  
I survived my first day.  
I packed up and was ready to go!  
Ask me what I did and what I know.



My first day was:

- ☐ Great  
☐ OK  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



School

is

cool!



School

is

cool!

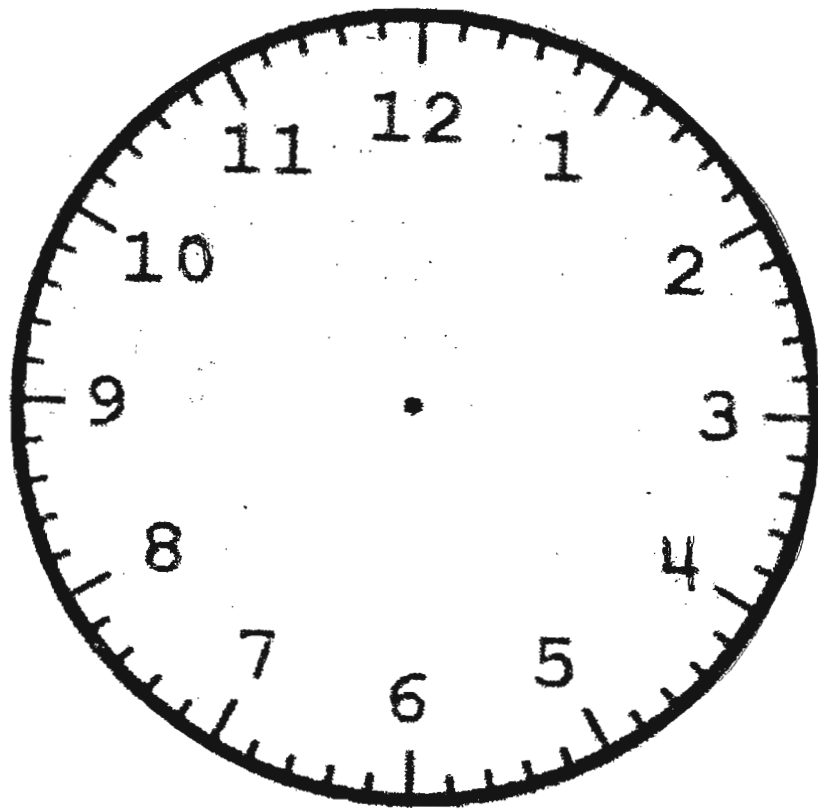


School

is

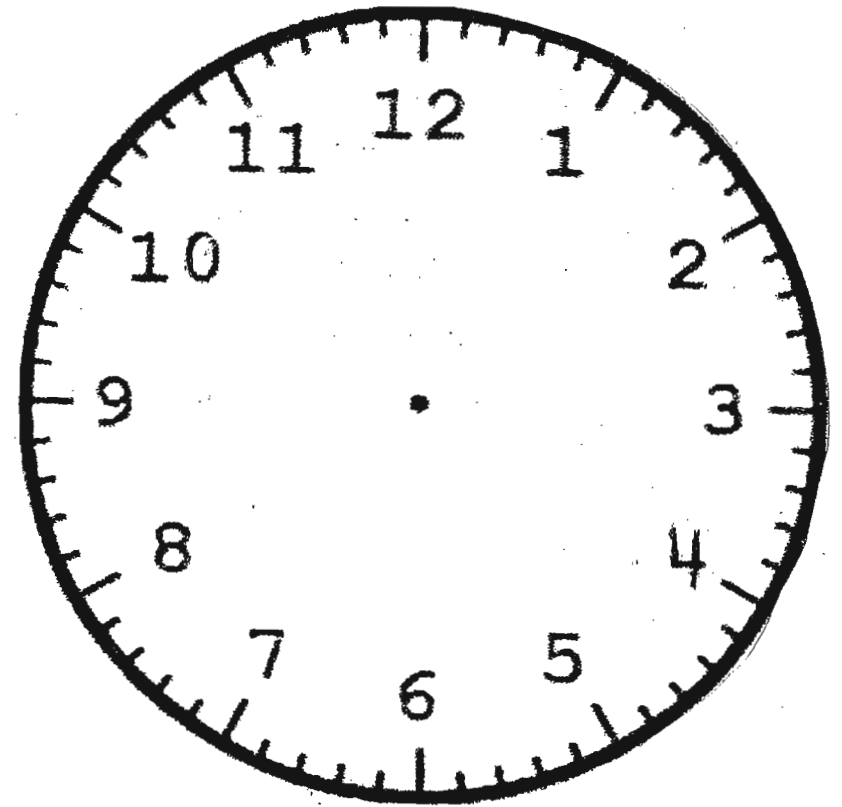
cool!

[illegible]



Time for RECESS.

Time for LUNCH.



Time to get  
ready to go HOME.



[illegible]



## **Weighing & Measuring as a fun activity for back-to-school**

A fun activity to do the first week of school is to weigh and measure all of your students.

Find out who is the lightest, heaviest, tallest, shortest and what the average height and weight of all of your students are, as well as the total pounds and inches of the entire class.

Graph the results as a great math extension.

I keep these statistics so that when I do this activity again in June, we can do all sorts of fun math comparisons.

**My Name:**

**I Measured My Friend!**

**My friend's Name:**

**Height:**

(from top of head to heel. With shoes on.)

**Leg:**

(from hip to ankle.)

**Arm:**

(from armpit to wrist.)

**Hand:**

(from middle finger to top of wrist.)

**Pointer Finger:**

**Foot:**

(With shoe on.)

**Wrist:**

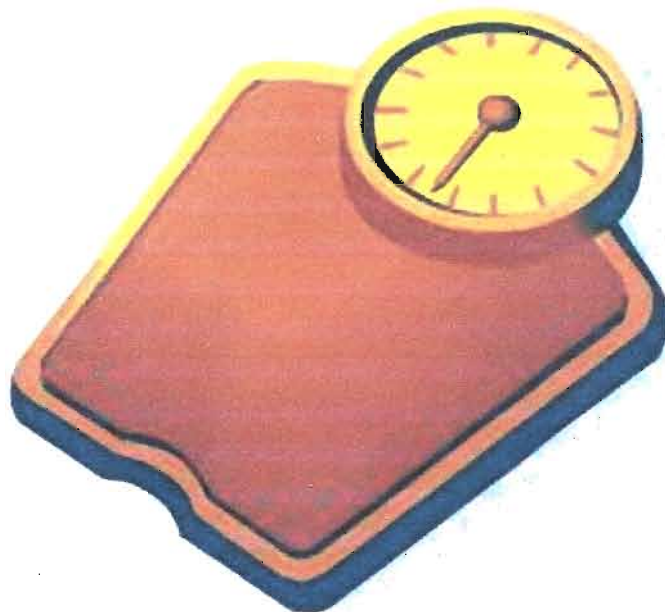
--pounds & ounces -- pounds & ounces --



# Congratulations!

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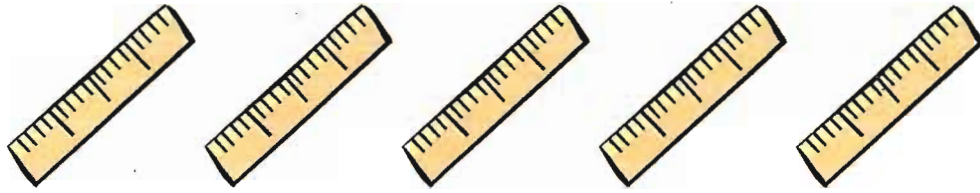
knows how to use a scale



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

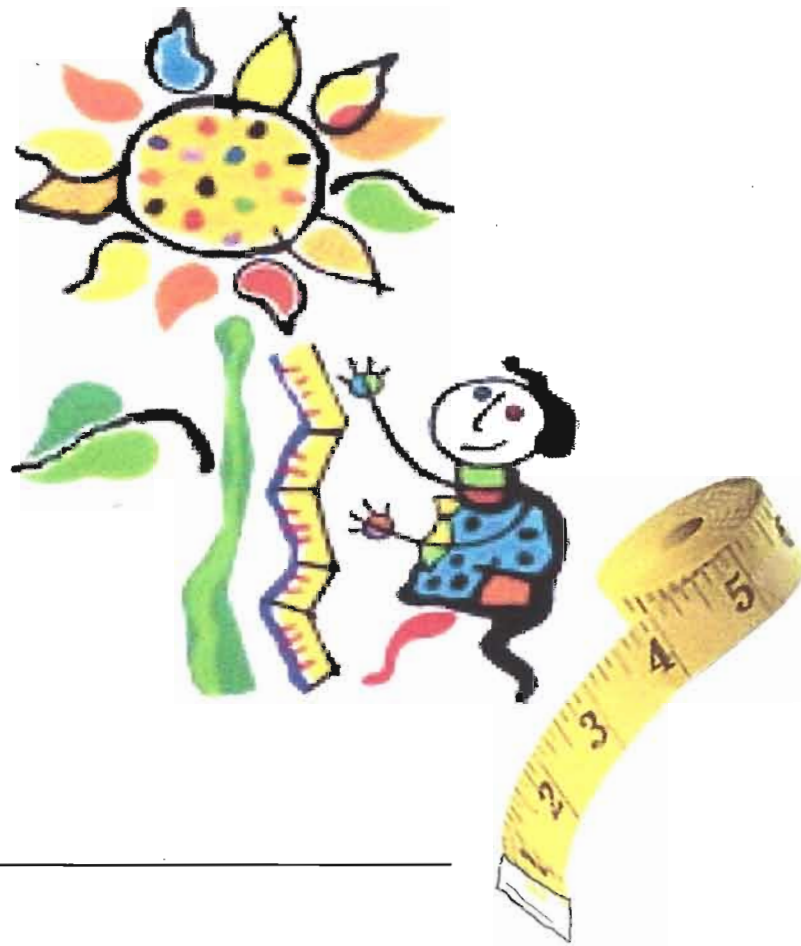




# Congratulations!

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knows how to use a ruler and measuring tape



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

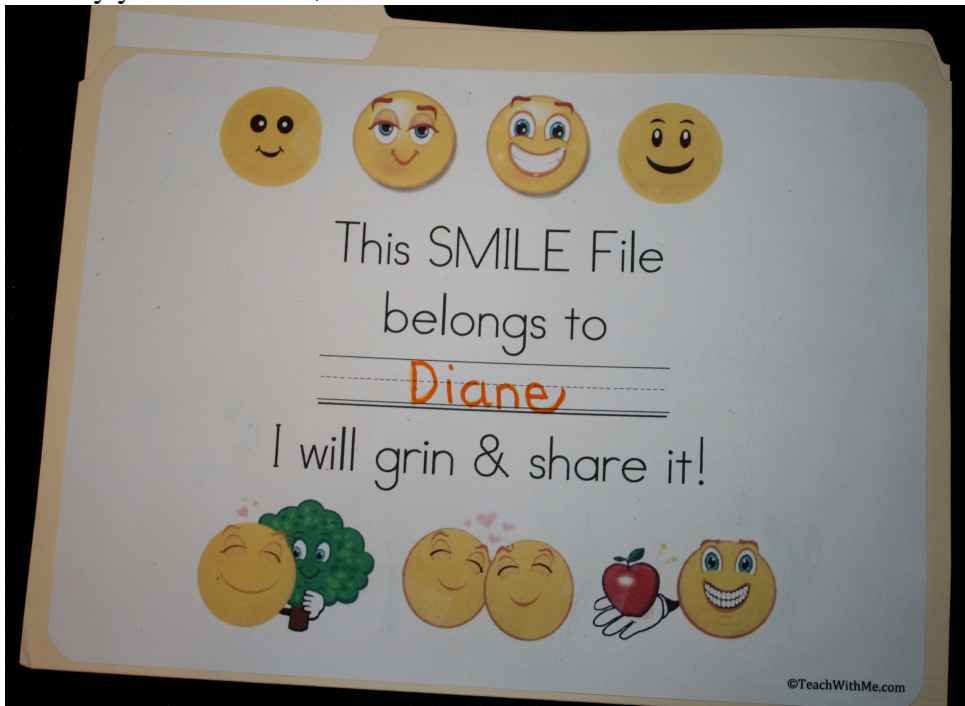
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Building Students' Self-Esteem

When I taught high school, I remember running into a mother of a student years later. She shared with me that her son still carried a dog-eared scrap of paper around in his wallet with a list of positive qualities his classmates had wrote about him in my class. I never forgot the impact something so simple can have on a person.

I think it's extremely important to build young children's self-esteem. Various studies have shown that children who are willing to take risks learn to read faster.

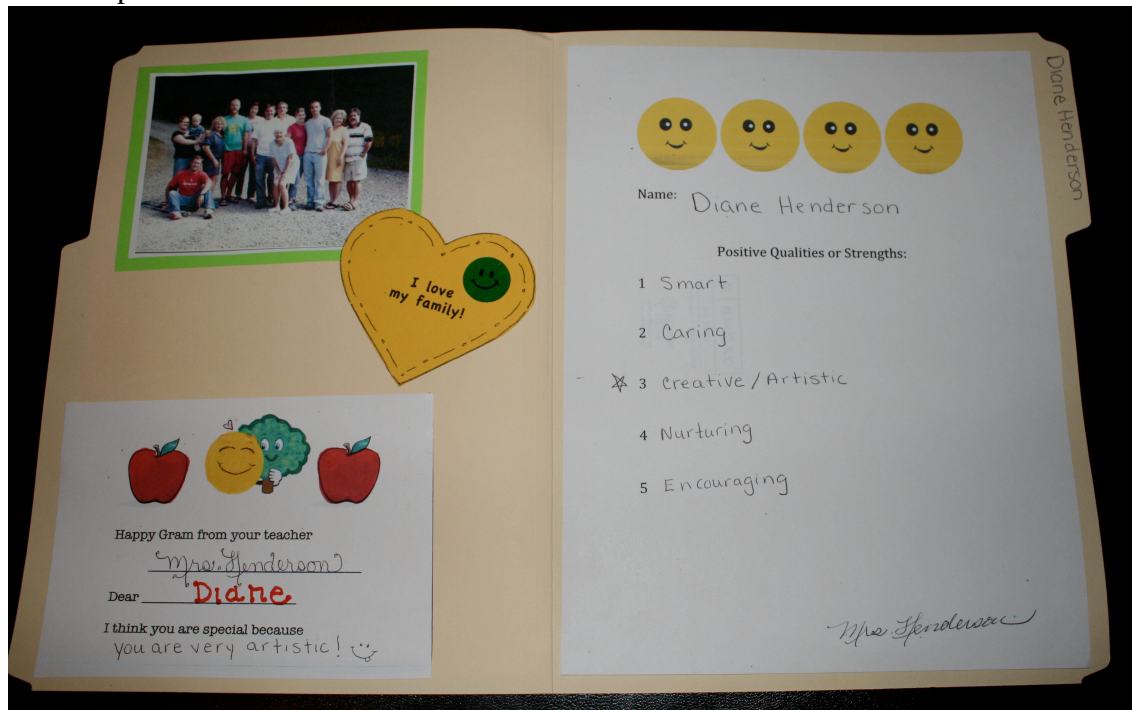
A child needs to feel confident to venture a guess, to make a mistake in order to learn. A fun way you can do this, is to make a **Smile File** for them.



#### Here's how:

- Write your students name on manila file folders.
- Run off my letter + positive quality attachment to parents explaining the file and requesting a family photo and send them home the first week of school.
- Buy a pack of various sizes of smile face stickers.
- Run off the Award calendars.
- Run off the "I love my family!" hearts on a variety of colored construction paper.
- Print off the "Happy Grams" from your teacher and fill them out as soon as you know your students well enough to make a "special" comment about them.
- Keep the folders in a crate under your desk for easy access.
- Run Off "This is your day!" sheets. Keep them in the crate.
- Keep all masters in the crate.

- As soon as students return their forms and photo pass out the folders and have them cut and glue their "pieces & parts" together.
- Whatever system you use for choosing children, pick a child each day to have your class fill out a "This is your day!" sheet, so you can get these completed the first month of school.
- Whenever you pass out certificates have students put them in their Smile File.
- Periodically star work that children will put in their Smile File so you have things to show parents for Parent Teacher conferences.



- If a member of their family comes to help in the class or chaperone, take a photo of them with mom, dad, grama, grampa working with them.
- They can glue the photo to a sheet of construction paper, write about it and put it in their Smile File.
- Give students a choice of things they want to put in the Smile File.
- Perhaps they got an "I love you" note from mommy in their lunch box, or a 100% on a spelling test, or were Star Student; you can make copies of things so they can take originals home.
- At the end of each day, pass out a smiley sticker to anyone who has put a smile on the teacher's face ALL day. In other words, this student has made wise choices (not moved their apple or other behavior management token, or been in the Time Out chair etc.), has completed their work or whatever else you have explained to your students as the guidelines for receiving a sticker.
- Children put their smiley face sticker on the appropriate day of the week.
- This Smile File then, can work as a great behavior modification program as well. You can reward students who have gotten a smile for the entire week/month if you want to.

- I've designed monthly certificates for this purpose, which of course they can collect and put in their Smile File!
- Have students paperclip certificates so they can stay organized from other things.
- If you'd like a writing extension for the calendar, post a list of one-word "happies" that students can choose from, to write on their calendar of what made them smile the most that day.
- I've given you a list of suggestions that you can keep posted.
- You should make one for yourself too! I keep my favorite drawings, cards and little notes from parents and students in mine.
- Then when you're having one of those "*I feel so unappreciated!*" days... you can sneak a peak at your Smile File and feel "*paper hugged*" and KNOW the reason why from "*scribbles of love!*"

I hope this idea brings a smile to your students' faces and helps build their self-esteem. Who knows, some day, maybe you'll meet a mom somewhere and they'll tell you their child still has their Smile File!







This SMILE File  
belongs to

Diane

I will grin & share it!





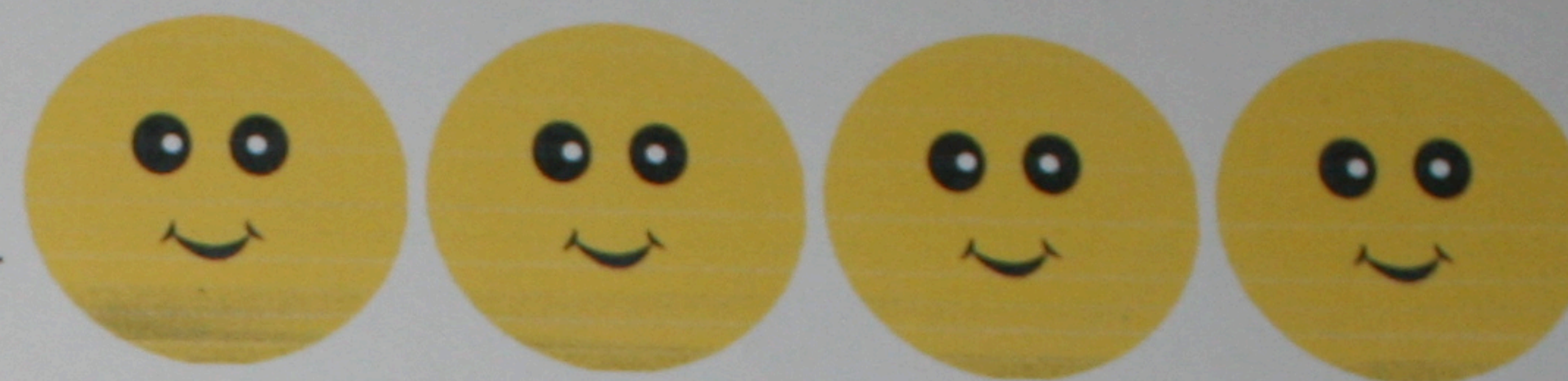


Happy Gram from your teacher

*Mrs. Henderson*

Dear **Diane**

I think you are special because  
you are very artistic! 😊



Name: Diane Henderson

Positive Qualities or Strengths:

1 Smart

2 Caring

★ 3 Creative / Artistic

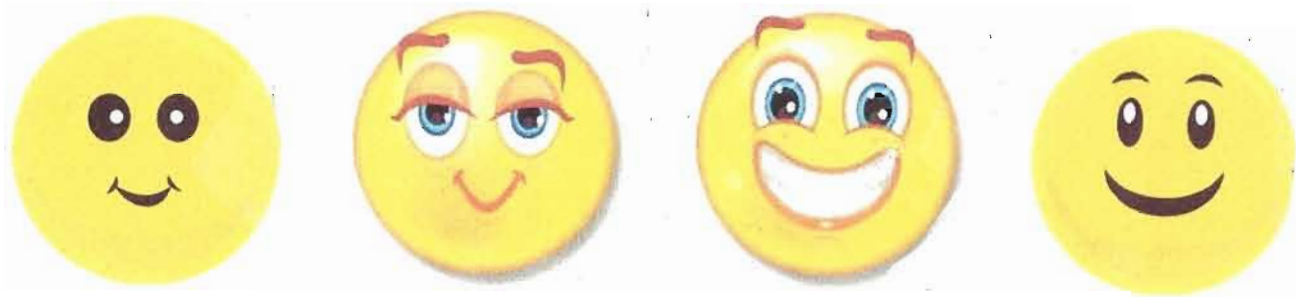
4 Nurturing

5 Encouraging

*Mrs. Henderson*

Diane Henderson





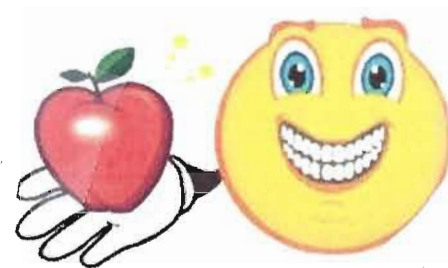
This SMILE File  
belongs to

---

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---

I will grin & share it!





Dear Families,

Your child will be making a Smile File at school during the first week and I need your help.

A smile file is a file folder that your child is proud of. When they open it up it makes them smile. It is filled with their certificates of accomplishment, their best or favorite papers or whatever else they or I deem appropriate to put in their Smile File.

You'll be able to look at it at conferences and they'll have a lovely keepsake to take home at the end of the year.

For the start of school, one of the things that makes a child smile is a photo of their family. Sometimes during the first week of school, a child may be missing their family or feel a little bit afraid. A quick peek into their Smile File to see a photo of their loved ones brings an instant smile to their face!

Would you please send in a photo of your family (one that your child can GLUE to the inside of their Smile File) so that they can sneak a peek any time they feel the need?

The other thing I need your help with is something I call positive words of character. Children need to feel confident. We need to build their self-esteem so they are willing to take risks in school when they are learning to read and take on new challenges.

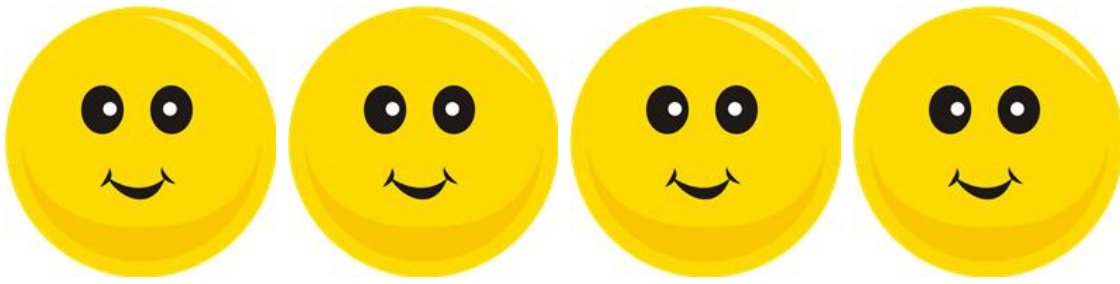
One way to do this is if they know what their strengths are. Would you please list 3-5 strengths or positive things about your child on the attached sheet? Read it to them to see if they agree or have anything to add. Have them star their favorite. They will be sharing their favorite quality with their classmates. This paper will go into their Smile File.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation in helping make your child's learning experience fun!

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

Educationally Yours,





Name:

Positive Qualities or Strengths:

1

2

3

4

5

# Award Calendar

Month: \_\_\_\_\_

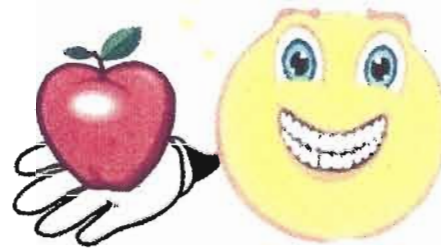


My behavior was so GREAT  
it brought a SMILE  
to my teacher's  
face ALL day!




















Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

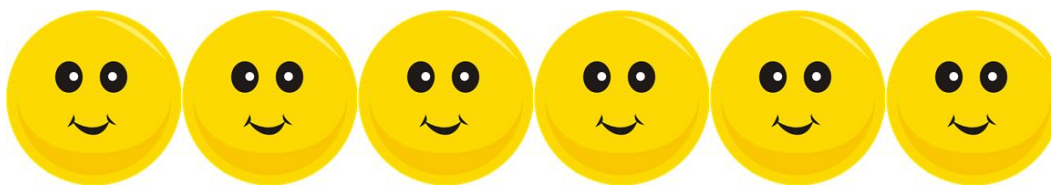
# Award Calendar

Month: September



My behavior was so GREAT  
it brought a SMILE  
to my teacher's  
face ALL day!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students write what their favorite thing was or a "smilie" of the day.</li> <li>Have a list of one-word "happies" on the board.</li> <li>This can be part of your morning message.</li> </ul> <div>SAMPLE</div> <div>Children earn a sticker for the day.</div>						
4	5	reading 	6 Painted 	7 Dan's B. day 	8 Lunch 	10
11	recess 	12 writing 	13 centers 	14 Table top 	15 Certificate & Calendar 	17
18	Show & Tell 	19 Snack Sack 	20 Speaker 	21 field trip 	22 Nana came to help 	24
25	Puppets 	26 Free play 	27 Play dough 	28 Science 	29 Blocks 	30



**Ideas For one/a few word “happies or smilies of the day” that students can jot down on their calendars.**

- You can make this into a poster and put on your white board for them to copy, or make it part of your morning message.
- Students jot down their “happy word” when you give them their smile face sticker for the day.
- Any one who had to move their apple of name card, or had to be reprimanded or spend time in the Time Out chair or whatever your form of student behavior management is, does not get a sticker.

- |              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Lunch      | • Special holiday                    |
| • Recess     | • Halloween, Valentines, Easter etc. |
| • Reading    | • We wrote letters                   |
| • Math       | • We made a card                     |
| • Art        | • We made a gift                     |
| • Computers  | • Fieldtrip                          |
| • Centers    | • Got 100%                           |
| • Gym        | • Could read my booklet              |
| • Music      | • Got a certificate                  |
| • science    | • Got a happy gram                   |
| • Spelling   | • My mom came                        |
| • Writing    | • My grama came                      |
| • Free play  | • My grampa came                     |
| • Play dough | • My dad came                        |
| • Blocks     | • We had a visitor                   |
| • Dress up   | • Assembly                           |
| • Toys       | • Magic                              |
| • Puppets    | • Story                              |
| • Party      | • Aced the test                      |
| • Candy      |                                      |

- Project
- Sharing
- Listening
- Playing
- We earned a free recess
- Table top
- Finger painted
- Painted with watercolors
- Painted at an easel
- Played games
- Played with a partner
- Watched a video
- Had a speaker

- It was my birthday
- Brought snack
- Special snack
- Show & Tell
- I was star student
- I was a helper
- It was my turn
- Hug
- Got picked
- Won the game
- Understood
- Knew the answer



Happy Gram from your teacher

---

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I think you are special because

---



Happy Gram from your teacher

---

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I think you are special because

---

It's Your Day \_\_\_\_\_

Your Friends have each named a quality they like or admire about you.

Here is your special list for your Smile File



Something I like about you.

Quality I admire about you.

[illegible]



[illegible]





# Congratulations!

---

put a SMILE on their teacher's face  
EVERY day all MONTH long!

For the month of \_\_\_\_\_



## Keep up the great work!

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# SUPER-DUPER Congratulations!

---

put a SMILE on their teacher's face  
EVERY day ALL year long!  
(They have a sticker for each day on ALL of their calendars!)

## WOW! Awesome Job!



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



I don't know about your students, but my Y5's don't know how to ask a question.

The librarian, after her introduction to the library, says: "*Does anyone have a question?*" and Corry "asks:" "*My mommy reads to me.*" Lanie "asks" "*I have that book.*" The librarian finally says: "*We have time for one more **question.***" And Billie "asks:" "*I wanna leave now.*"

The same thing happens in October when the fire department comes for Fire Safety Month and Aubrey "asks:" "*I once saw a fire when...*"

Now I teach my students HOW to ask a question and that those questions MUST begin with question words.

These question words make wonderful word-wall words too.

If you begin with the bolded, all-capital word START and then read the rest of the bolded-all capital words, you will come up with the simple sentence: "***Start a question with these words!***"

You're not asking A QUESTION  
if you don't START  
WITH one of THESE WORDS!

what

where

why

who

will

when

is

how

are

can

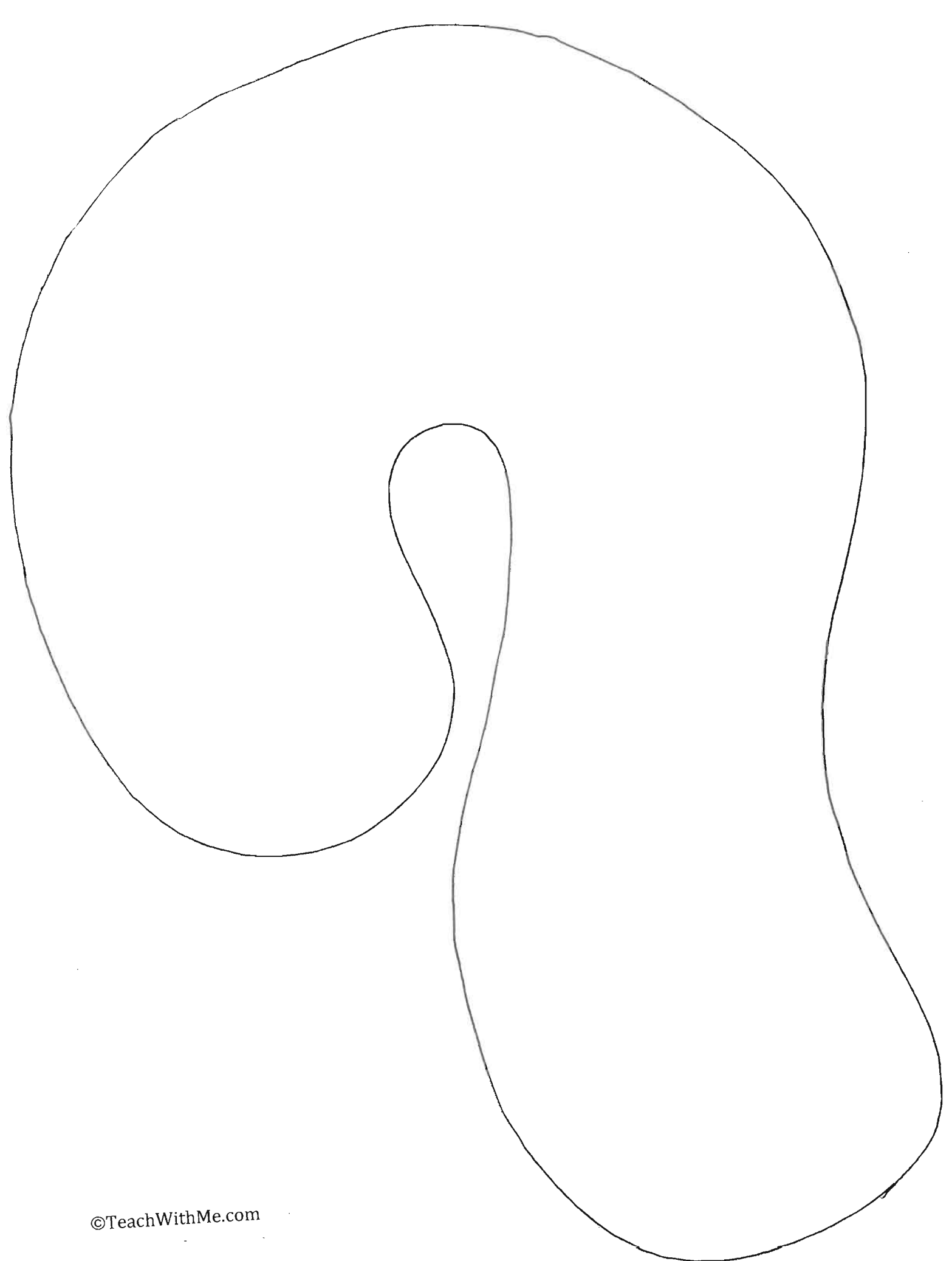
may

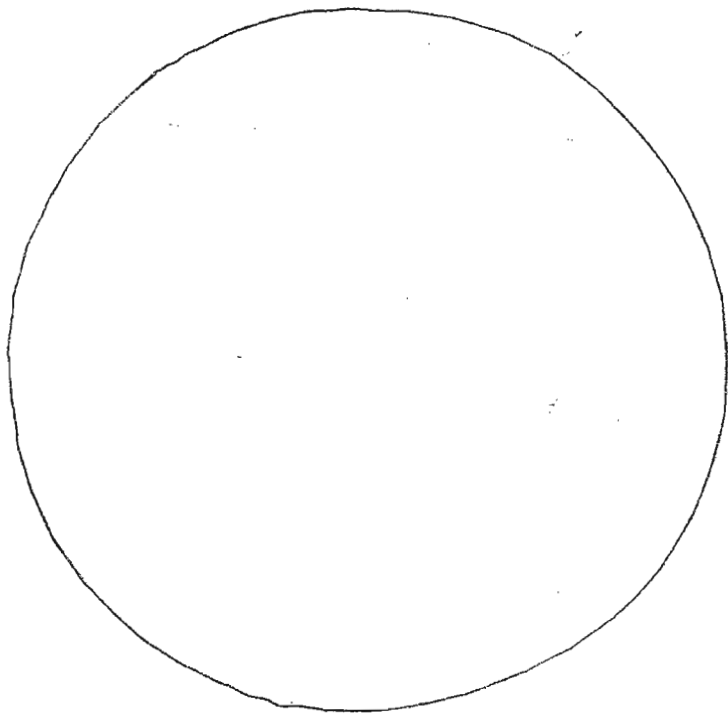
do

does

did







who

what

why

when

where

how

does

may

is

can

do

did

are

will

## Question Words

If your sentence does not begin with one of these words it is NOT a question! TRACE the words and then write them in alphabetical order.

who

what

why

when

where

how

does

may

is

can

do

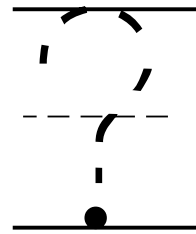
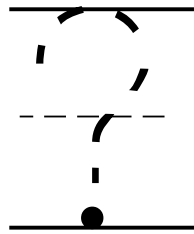
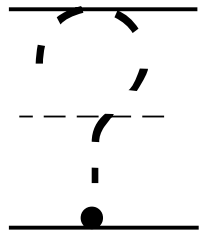
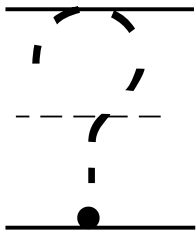
did

are

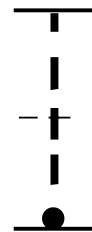
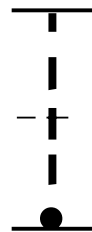
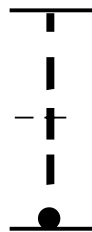
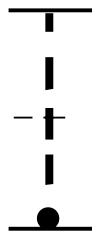
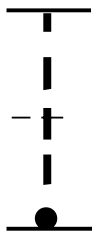
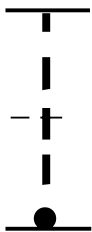
will

Let's practice punctuation.

TRACE and then WRITE the punctuation Marks.



Handwriting practice lines for comma writing. It consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. Below these is a thick solid line.



Handwriting practice lines for exclamation mark writing. It consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. Below these is a thick solid line.



## ABCDe-tective Sight-Word Smart Check List.



- are
- can
- did
- do
- does
- how
- is
- may
- what
- where
- when
- who
- why
- will

I know these 14 question words!  
Yay me!

# Congratulations!

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knows how to ASK a question!



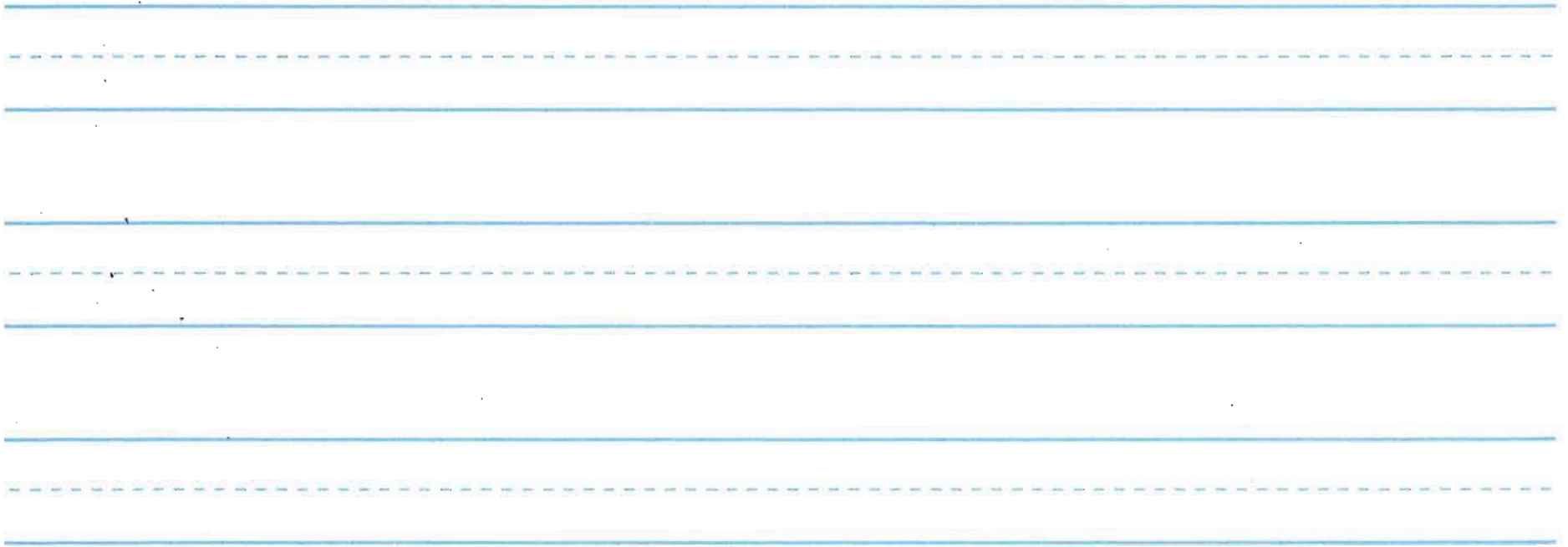
Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Handwriting Practice

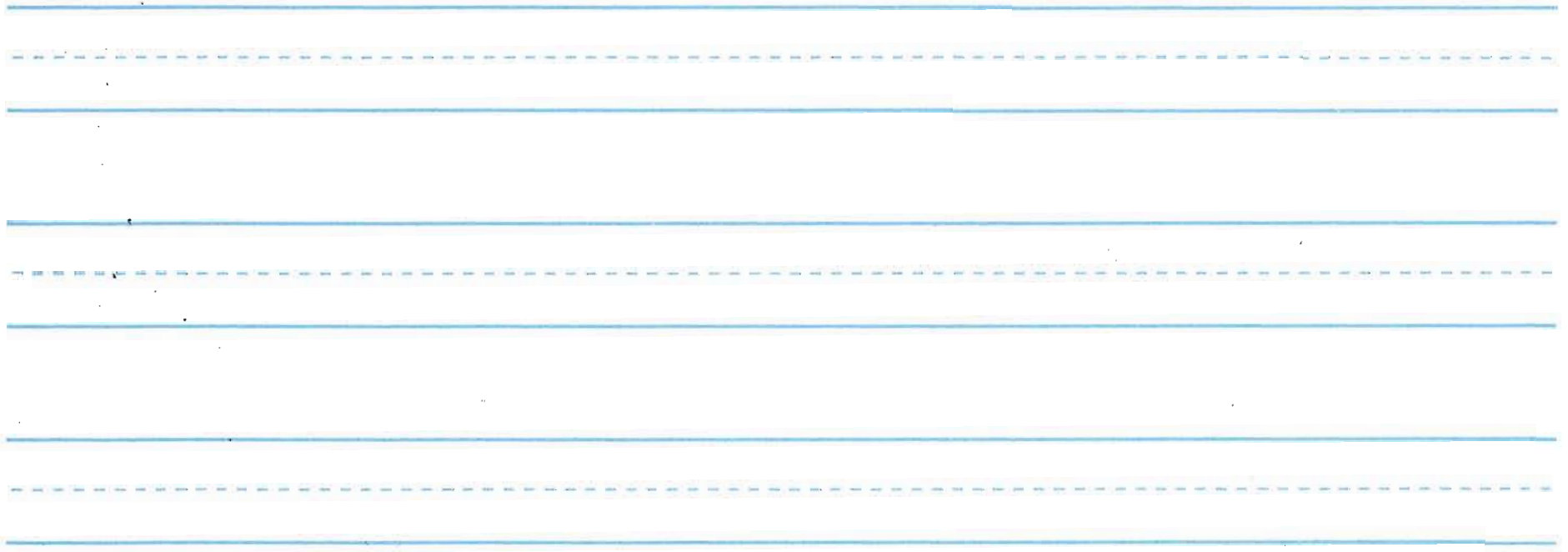
Happy 1<sup>st</sup> day!



Three sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

# Handwriting Practice

Welcome to preschool.



Four sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

# Handwriting Practice

Welcome to Y5's

Three sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

# Handwriting Practice

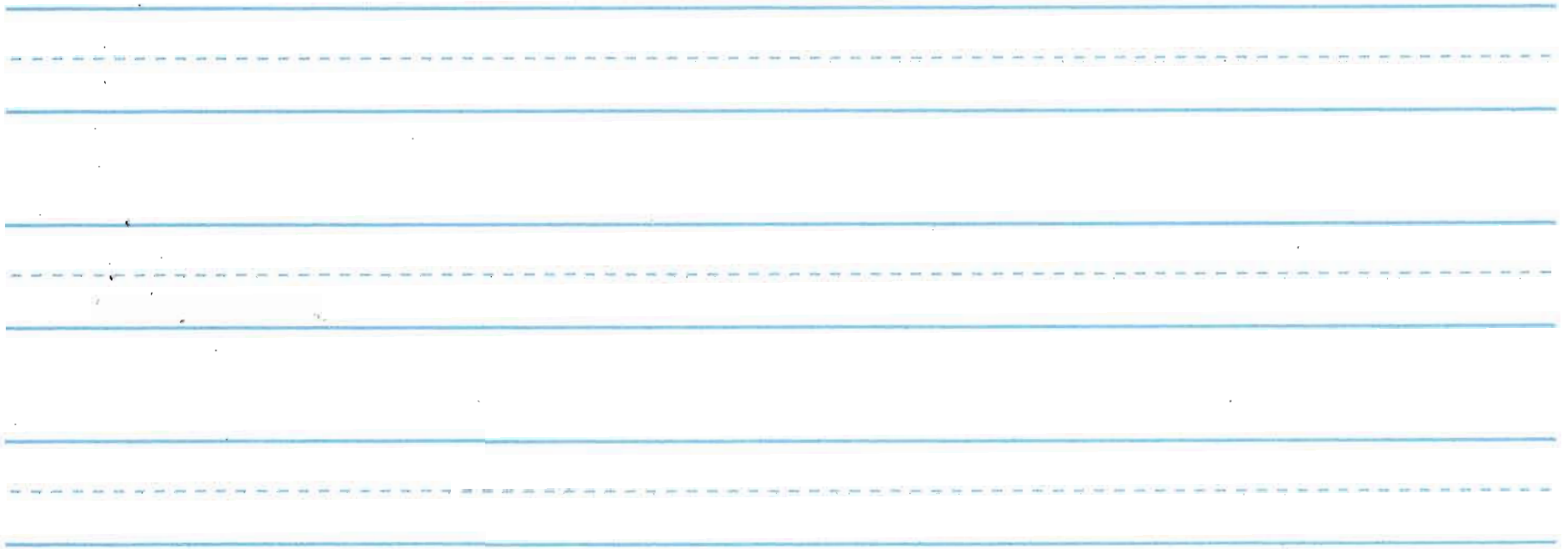
Welcome to kindergarten.

# Handwriting Practice

Welcome to first grade.

# Handwriting Practice

Welcome to school.

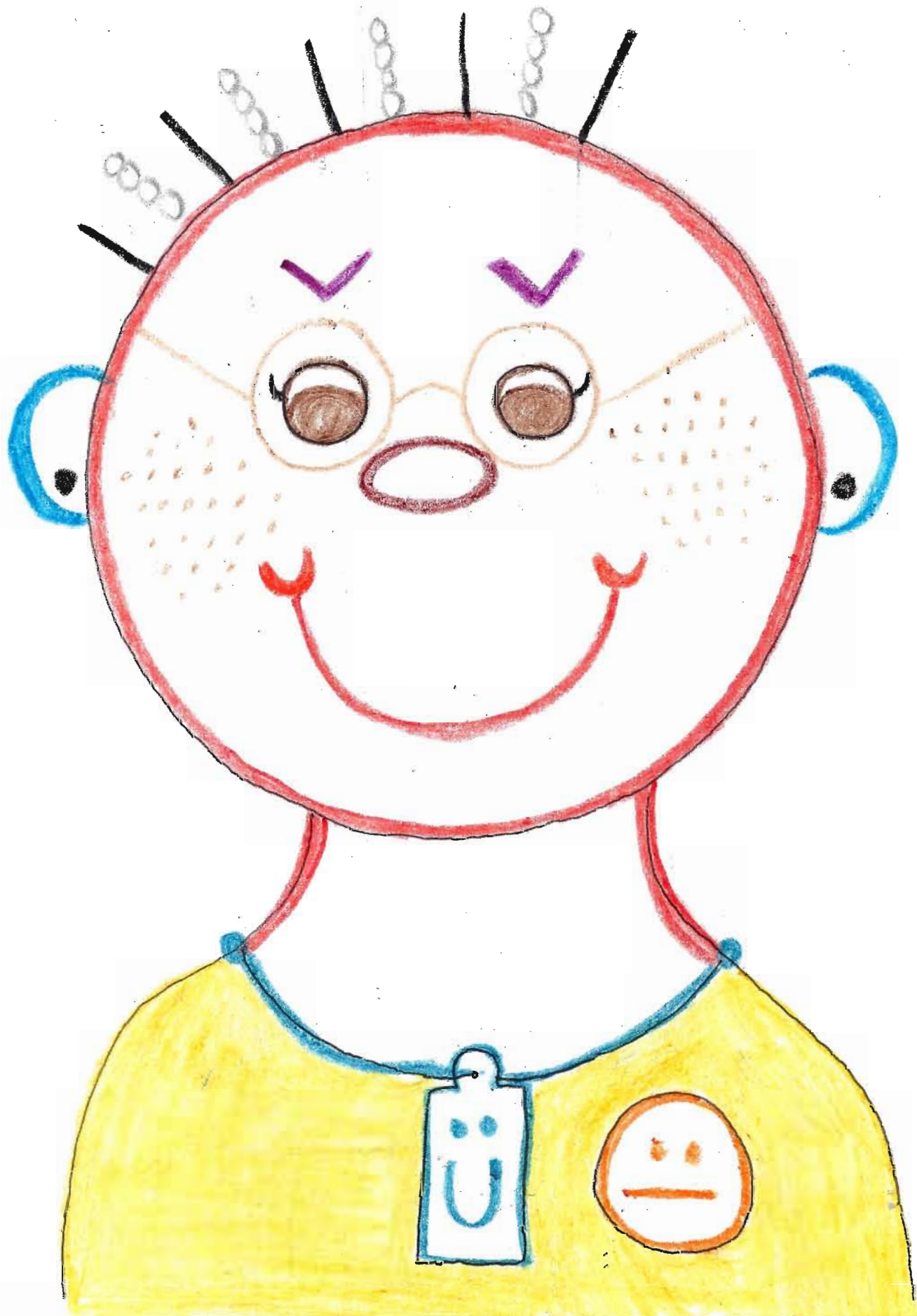


Three sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

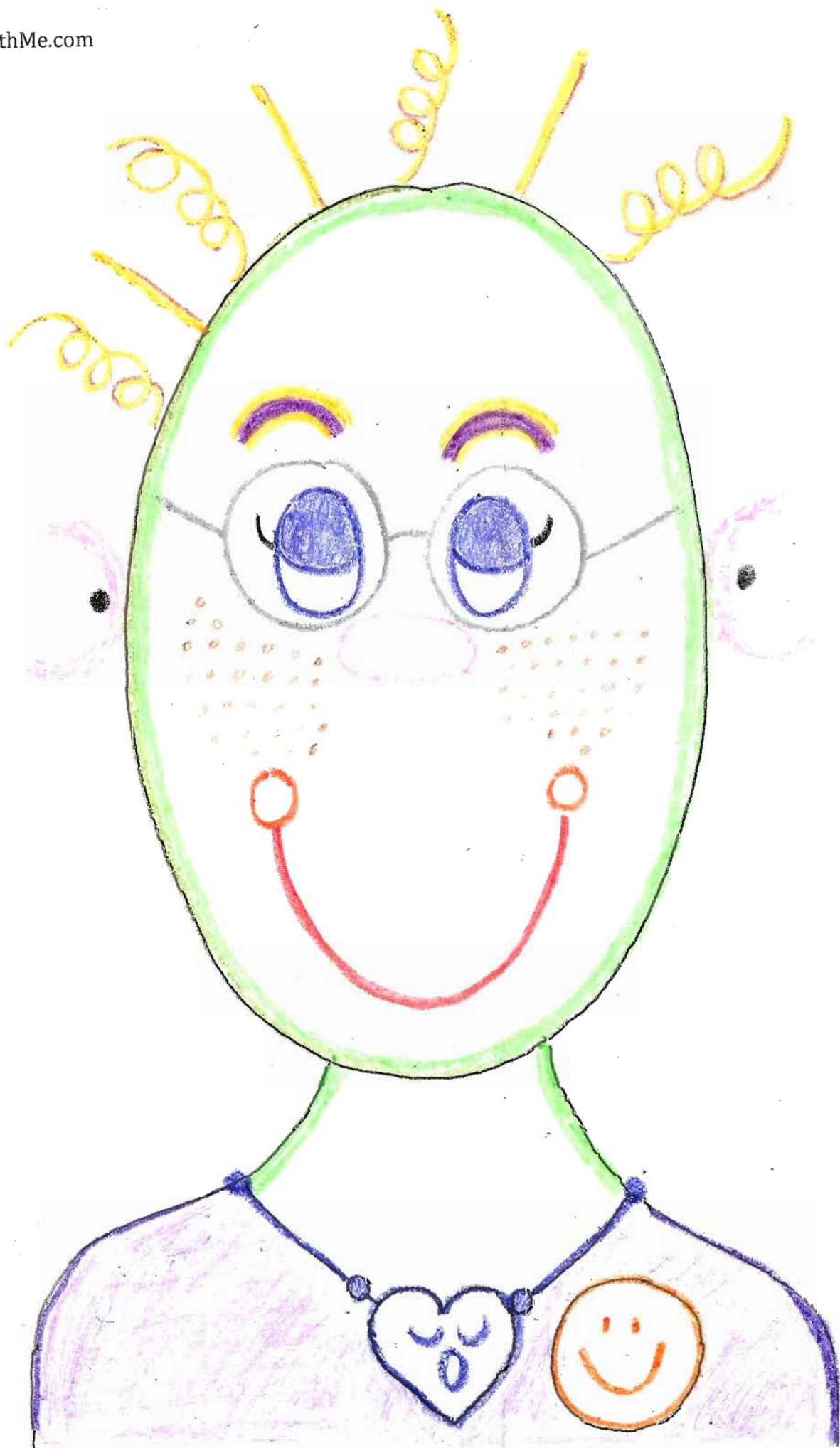
# Handwriting Practice

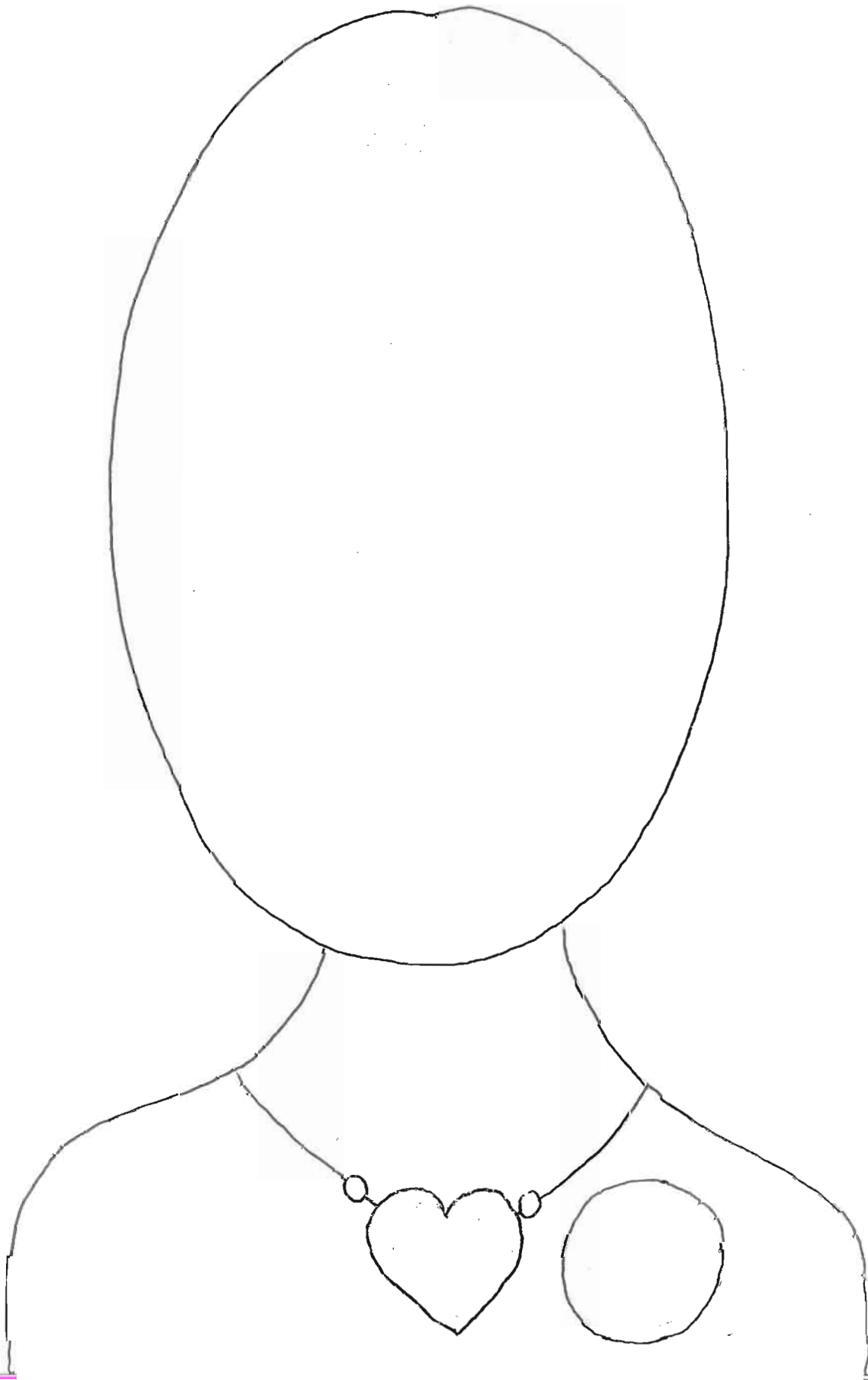
Welcome back to school.

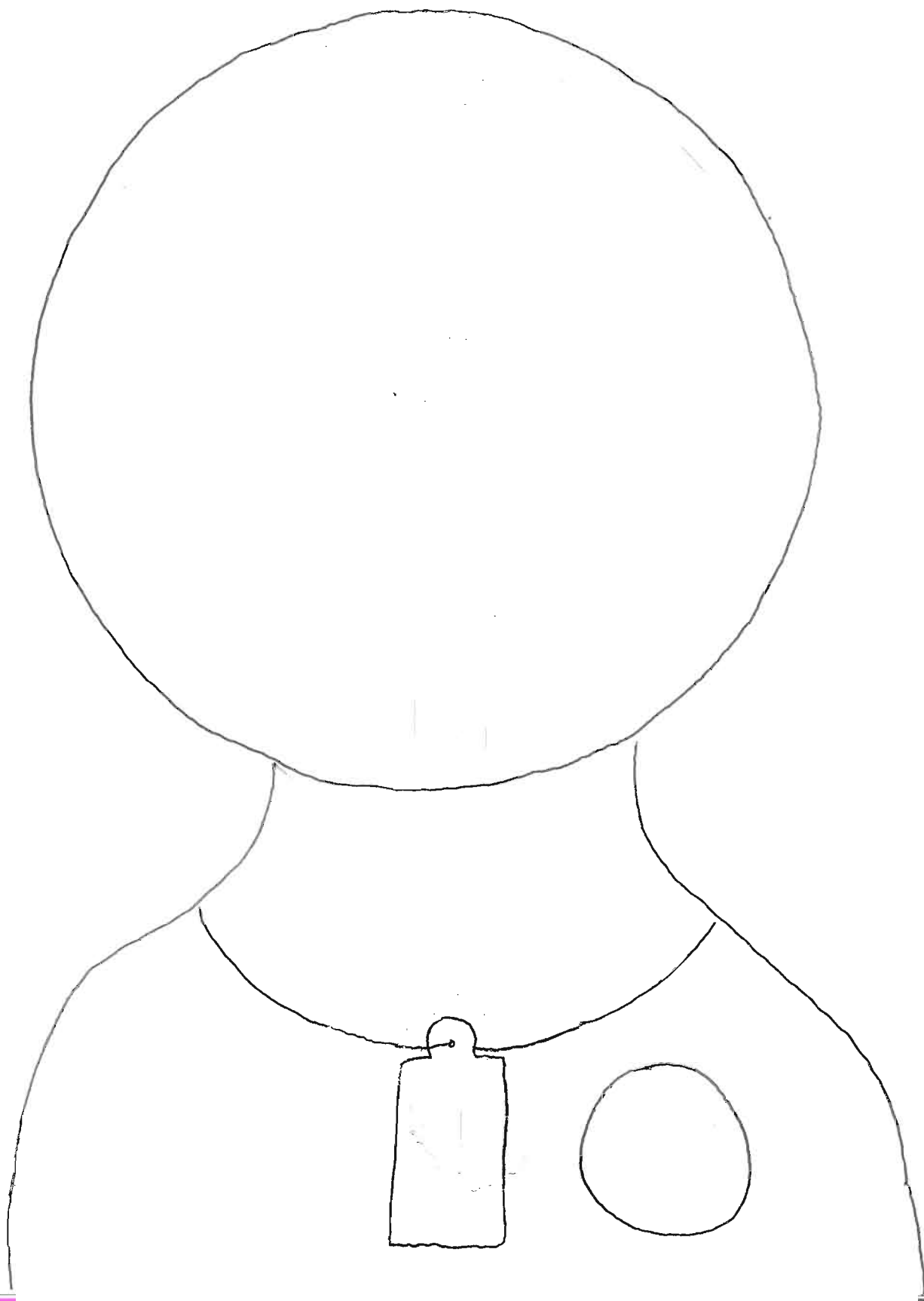
The image shows four sets of horizontal handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are provided for practicing the sentence 'Welcome back to school.' and other handwriting exercises.











# Bio-glyph

Feel free to make this glyph easier/simpler, by crossing out things, as you deem appropriate for age and time.

**Face Shape:** *TRACE* the shape of your face with your **SECOND** favorite color crayon, this includes your neck. (Later, if there's time, have students go over this and make it wider/bolder so that it shows up better.)



- Male



- Female

## Eyes:



- If you're a "morning person" draw OVAL eyes. (Go to bed early, get up in the morning.)



- If you're a "night owl" draw CIRCLE eyes. (Stay up late, sleep in.)



- COLOR your eyes the color that your eyes are: (*blue, green, brown*)
- If you wear glasses put glasses on your face. Use a crayon the color of your glasses. (Demonstrate this by drawing them on the board. My sample has glasses as I wear them.)



- If you like the fall season (Sept, Oct, Nov.) better than the winter season (Dec, Jan, Feb.) draw the pupils of your eyes up. If you like winter better draw



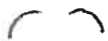
your pupils down.

## Eyelashes: Use a **black crayon**.

- The number of eyelashes you draw on your eyes = how many pets you have. Since eyes need to be symmetrical if you have two eyelashes per eye this means you have 2 pets, not a total of 4.



- Dog



- Cat







- Other







**Shirt:** *COLOR* your SHIRT your **FAVORITE** color.







**Eyebrows:** Use a **purple crayon** if you are wearing tennis shoes. Use a **green crayon** if you are wearing sandals or flip-flops. Use a **yellow crayon** if you are wearing something else.

-  • I participate in a sport.
-  • I do not participate in a sport.
-  • I wish I participated in a sport.
-  • I do not like sports.







**Mouth:** Use a **RED crayon**.

-  • Likes school.
-  • Doesn't like school.
-  • Was scared to come to school today.
-  • Thinks school is OK or not sure yet.

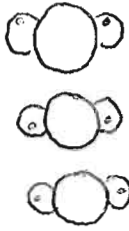
**Cheeks:** Use an **ORANGE crayon**. (The cheeks are connected to the end of the mouth.)

-  • Ate or is eating hot lunch today. 
-  • Ate or is eating cold lunch today. 
-  • Forgot, or doesn't know what they are eating today. 

**Ears:**

-  • Make your ears this way if you have sister(s) Use a **PINK crayon**.
-  • Make your ears this way if you have brother(s) Use a **BLUE crayon**.
-  • Make one of each if you have both.
-  • Make your ears like this if you're an only child and don't have any.
-  • Make your ears like this if a baby is on the way and you're going to be a big brother or sister!
-  • Put DOTS on your ears for HOW many brothers and sisters you have. Use a **black crayon** for the dots. Since ears need to be symmetrical the dots on

each ear should be the same. If you only have one sister you will have one dot on each ear. This does not mean you have 2 siblings.



- Dots on the top of the ear mean they are OLDER than you are.
- A dot on the bottom of the ear means they are YOUNGER than you are.
- If you have a twin put your dot in the MIDDLE of the ear.
- If your ears are pierced color/draw some earrings in them.

**Nose:** Use a crayon the color of your favorite FLAVOR of ice cream. i.e, my favorite flavor of ice cream is cherry so my nose will be colored **PINK**. If your favor flavor is chocolate, yours will be **BROWN**



- Draw your nose like this if you ride the bus.



- Draw your nose like this if your parents drop you off in a car.



- Draw your nose like this if you walk to school.



- Draw your nose like this if you ride your bike.



- Draw your nose like this if you are home schooled.



**Freckles:** Use a **brown crayon** if you like math. Use a **black crayon** if you don't. (For younger children who might not understand what math is, you can say: "...if you can count to 10 or 20.)

- Put freckles on both sides of your nose. The total number of freckles should be how old you are. If you are 6-years-old, put 3 freckles on one side, and 3 freckles on the other side.

**Hair:** Use a crayon the color of your hair. Choose the one you are most like, or if you want to, you may choose two and make an ABAB pattern with your hair. How many strands of hair you put on = your birth month. (put the months on the board with the number after them. i.e. January = 1, December = 12



- I'm a shy and quiet person.
- I'm a talkative person.
- I'm a smart person.
- I'm a happy person.

**Circle Button:** Use an **orange crayon**. TRACE around the circle.



- If you liked making this glyph draw this face.



- If you had a hard time with this glyph draw this face.



- If you didn't like making this glyph draw this face.



- If you're not sure, or think this is just OK draw this face.

**Feeling Necklace:** Use a **blue crayon**. TRACE around the charm and chain.

**Charm:** Girls have a heart, boys have a dog tag. ***Right now I feel...***



- Tired



- Mad



- Confused/Not sure



- Happy

**Chain:**



- If your name starts with a letter at the beginning of the alphabet add a bead at the TOP of the necklace. (Farthest away from the beads on the drawing. Since this necklace is symmetrical add a bead to both sides. COLOR the beads in.) (Letters A-I)



- If your name starts with a letter in the middle of the alphabet add a bead in the MIDDLE of the necklace. (Letters J-R)



- If your name starts with a letter at the end of the alphabet add a bead at the end of the necklace. (Closest to the beads on my drawing. Letters S-Z )
- TURN YOUR PAPER OVER and WRITE your name on the back. In such a way so that when you "flip it up" you can read it.



### **Etc. Directions:**

- Teacher collects the glyphs.
- You can have students share them as a way for students to get to know each other and they can explain their glyphs, or you can make it a mystery.
- Number them and post them in the hallway as flip up's with the student's photo of their first day under them. People will be able to read the name that was printed on the back when they flip them up.
- Set a timer and allow students time to interview each other to see if they can figure out the glyphs and award a prize to the person who gets the most correct.
- The teacher should also try their hand at seeing how many they can get correct as well.
- Later, when you take these down you can put them in a class book. Glue their photo to the back of their bio-glyph and be sure to include a key.

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# Glyph Key

## Face shape:



Male



Female

## Eye shape:



Morning person



Night owl

Pupil color = their eye color.

## Pupil location



Likes fall



Likes winter

Eye Lashes: = number of pets



Dog



Cat



Other



### **Eyebrows:**



Participates in a sport



Does not.



Wishes they did.



Doesn't like sports.

### **Eyebrow color:**

Purple = wearing tennis shoes.

Yellow = wearing flip-flops/sandals.

Green = wearing something else.

### **Mouth:**



Likes school.



Doesn't like school.



Was scared to come to school today.




Thinks school is OK or not sure yet.

**Freckles = Age**

**Shirt color = Favorite color**

**Face color = 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite color**

### **Cheeks:**

○ ○ Ate hot lunch. 

∪ ∪ Ate cold lunch. 

/ \ Forgot. 

### **Ears:**

⊗ ⊗ Has a sister.

⊕ ⊕ Has a brother.

⊗ ⊕ Has both.

⊕ ⊕ Only child.

⊗ ⊗ Baby on the way.

### **Dots = how many siblings**






#### **Location of dots:**

 Older sibling

 Younger sibling

 Twin

**Nose:**


-  Rides the bus to school.
-  Comes in a car.
-  Walks.
-  Rides a bike.
-  Home schooled

**Hair:** May have a combo of two  
The number of strands = birth month.

 Shy & quiet

 Talkative

 Smart

 Happy

### Location of bead on necklace:



Beginning: Name begins with letter A-I



Middle: Name begins with letter J-R



End: Name begins with letter S-Z

Badge = If they liked making the glyph.



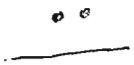
Liked.



Had a hard time.



Didn't like.



OK or not sure.

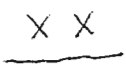
Charm on necklace = How they feel today.



Tired



Mad



Confused / Not sure



Happy

How many strands of hair should you put on your head?

January = 1

February = 2

March = 3

April = 4

May = 5

June = 6

July = 7

August = 8

September = 9

October = 10

November = 11

December = 12

### Sample Interview Questions

- Here are some sample interview questions.
- They can use these or think of their own.
- Read them to the students.
- Children can decide on several that they feel will get them the best answers to solve who the owner of the glyph is and then they decide which ones they will ask their new friends.
- Remind them that you have set the timer and they need to get through \_\_\_\_\_ number of friends in \_\_\_\_\_ amount of time before the timer rings.
- Students write the name of their friend on the numbered identification glyph.
- These numbers correspond to the numbers on the glyphs.
- When the timer rings, have students sit in the hall.
- Call on a student who is sitting quietly to come up to the glyph.
- Have students pat their thighs as a drum roll.
- The quiet student flips up the glyph to reveal whose it is.
- Children circle their number if they got it correct or mark an X on the number if they got it wrong.
- Continue to call on quiet students until everyone has had a turn to flip up a glyph.
- Students count up how many circled numbers they have correct.
- You can award a prize to the person who got the most right and give everyone who participated a Smartie candy.

1. What's your second favorite color?
2. What's your favorite color?
3. How old are you?
4. How do you get to school?
5. What kind of person are you? (Shy, talkative, smart, happy?)
6. What month were you born in?
7. Do you have a pet? How many?
8. Do you have any brothers? How many? Are they younger or older?
9. Do you have any sisters? How many? Are they younger or older?
10. Did you eat hot or cold lunch today?
11. Do you like school?
12. What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?
13. Did you like doing the glyph?





# Whose Glyph?

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 17. |
| 2.  | 18. |
| 3.  | 19. |
| 4.  | 20. |
| 5.  | 21. |
| 6.  | 22. |
| 7.  | 23. |
| 8.  | 24. |
| 9.  | 25. |
| 10. | 26. |
| 11. | 27. |
| 12. | 28. |
| 13. | 29. |
| 14. | 30. |
| 15. |     |
| 16. |     |





# Super Sleuth!



## Congratulations!

---

has gotten the most **bio-glyphs** correct!



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year!

As a fun icebreaker I thought the children would enjoy sharing a cookie glyph about themselves so we can get to know each other.

Would you please read the enclosed directions and help your child complete their cookie and then return it to school for our first day of class.

The students will be sharing them and then I will be making a bulletin board with their creations.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

I'm really looking forward to our first day of school. We will have so much fun!

Educationally Yours,



# My Cookie Glyph



COLOR pink (girl) or blue (boy) inside and then please CUT out. Write name in PENCIL on back. Thank you.

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# Cookie Glyph Directions

1. If you are a GIRL use a **PINK** crayon and TRACE around the CIRCLE/cookie.  
If you are a BOY use a **BLUE** crayon.

## 2. Frosting Border:



- If you are excited to come to school make this kind of frosting border around the inside edge of your cookie.



- If you really don't want to come to school make this kind of frosting border.



- If you are a little bit scared to come to school make this kind of frosting border.



- If you are not sure how you feel about coming to school, make this kind of frosting border.
- Use a **purple** crayon for your frosting border if you were born in this state.
- Use a **red** crayon for your frosting border if you were born in another state.
- Use a **green** crayon for your frosting border if you were born in another country.


3. Write your age in the circle on the cookie. Use a **black crayon**. COLOR this circle your **FAVORITE color**. This is about the size you should make your "toppings".

4. Make a triangle  on your cookie for **every** sister you have. If you have 3 sisters you will have 3 triangles.

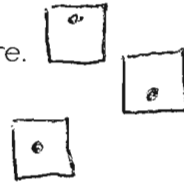
- COLOR these **purple** if your favorite ice cream is vanilla.
- COLOR them **orange** if your favorite ice cream is chocolate.
- COLOR them **red** if your favorite ice cream is strawberry.
- COLOR them **yellow** if your favorite ice cream is something else.
- If you don't have a sister, put a straight line at the top of your cookie the appropriate ice cream color. (see sample.)

- If this sister is older put a dot at the top of the triangle.
- If she is younger put a dot at the bottom of the triangle.
- If she is your twin put a dot in the middle of the triangle.



5. Make a square  on your cookie for every brother you have.
- COLOR these **green** if you play a sport.
  - Color them **light brown** if you don't like sports.
  - Color them **blue** if you'd like to play a sport.
  - If you don't have a brother, put a straight line at the top of your cookie the appropriate color. (see sample.)

- If this brother is older put a dot at the top of the square.
- If he is younger put a dot at the bottom of the square.
- If he is your twin put a dot in the middle of the square.



6. If you have a dog draw an oval  on your cookie. Use your **second favorite** color crayon to color it.

7. If you have a cat draw a diamond on your cookie.  Use your **second favorite** color crayon to color it.

8. Make little rectangle sprinkles all over your cookie for the month that you were born in.



Here is a key for how many sprinkles you can put on your cookie that will = the month as well as the color(s) you should use.

- January = 1 white
- February = 2 **red**
- March = 3 **green**
- April = 4 **blue**
- May = 5 **pink**
- June = 6 **yellow**
- July = 7 2 **red**, 2 white and 3 **blue**
- August = 8 **red** and **black** (4 of each)
- September = 9 **yellow**, **orange** and **red** (3 of each)
- October = 10 **black** and **orange** (5 of each)
- November = 11 5 **brown** and 6 **orange**
- December = 12 **red** and **green** (6 of each)

9. Heart: Color the heart your favorite FLAVOR bubble gum. i.e. my favorite flavor bubble gum is cherry so I would color my heart **red**.



- Make this kind of face if you are shy & quiet.



- Make this kind of face if you are talkative.



- Make this kind of face if you are sleepy.



- Make this kind of face if you are silly.



- Make this kind of face if you are happy.

10. Star:

- Color the star **yellow** if you like pepperoni pizza.
- Color the star **orange** if you like cheese pizza.
- Color the star **white** if you like a different kind of pizza.
- Put the letter B in the star if you will be riding the bus to school.
- Put the letter W in the star if you will be walking to school.
- Put the letter C in the star if you will be coming by car.
- Put the letter K in the star if you will be riding your bike.

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### **Sample interview questions**

- Brainstorm with your students.
  - Read these as suggestions and then let them know that they can also think of their own question.
  - They will be asking one or two questions of each of their new friends.
  - Remind them that they have X amount of time to get through X amount of students before the timer rings.
  - If you have enough clipboards for everyone, my Y5's think it's "way cool" to carry them around and write on.
1. What is your favorite color?
  2. What's your second favorite color?
  3. How old are you?
  4. How do you get to school?
  5. What kind of person are you? (Shy, talkative, sleepy, silly, happy)
  6. What month were you born in?
  7. Do you have a pet? How many? Is it a cat, dog or other?
  8. Do you have any brothers? How many? Are they younger or older?
  9. Do you have any sisters? How many? Are they younger or older?
  10. What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?
  11. What's your favorite flavor of bubble gum?



# Whose Glyph?

1.

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**Super Sleuth**



# Congratulations!

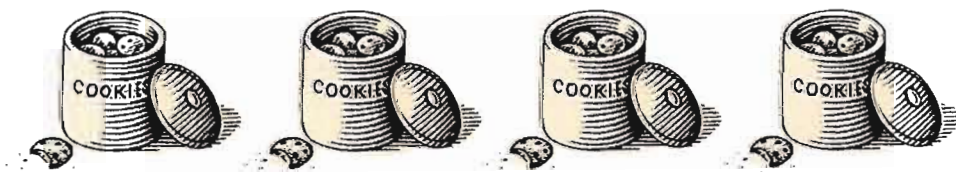
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has gotten the most cookie glyphs correct!



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# A Cookie Glyph As A Fun Icebreaker



## Cookie Glyph:

I dreamed this up because I thought it would not only be a fun icebreaker, but it would make an instant and really cute bulletin board as well.

You can do these **with** your students the first week of school as a get-to-know-you activity, or you can tuck the directions and a tan construction paper cookie into your *Open House Packet* for parents to help their child with, and then they can bring their cookie on the first day of school for them to hold up and share with their new friends.

We have our Open House before school starts. If you don't, you can tuck it into your "*Welcome to my class*" letter that many teachers send out during the summer or simply send it home the first day of school.

Use my pattern, or revamp it to make it simpler or a bit more involved to fit the age of your students or the time frame you have allotted to complete it in class.

Take a photo of each student on their 1st day of school. I use this photo in all sorts of keepsake things during September until I get their school pix back.

I make black & white copies on the photo setting of our copier and keep them along with other photos that I take in a file folder on my desk.

## Cookie Glyph Bulletin Board:

After students finish sharing their cookie glyph, if they haven't already done so, have them cut their cookie out.

Cover a section of your bulletin board or a wall with aluminum foil so that it looks like a cookie sheet.

If you want to make this "pop" make a cookie sheet out of tag board and then wrap it in aluminum foil. Stuff a bit of tissue paper under the center of it so that it is raised up.

Arrange your students' cookie glyphs on the sheet and staple their photo next to their cookie so that it overlaps a bit.

Make copies of the spatula template and have children write their names on them, or for younger students give them a sticker name label.

They can color the handles their favorite color and then cut them out. Staple the spatula on top of a corner of their photo.

Your heading will be: \_\_\_\_\_ ***Has A Brand New Batch Of Really Smart Cookies!***

Display the glyph key and my "*Recipe for a really good year!*" card and put them one above the other on your board on either the left or right side.

If you'd like to make this a "*Mystery glyph game*" like the **bio-glyph in back-to-school idea #5** scotch tape the cookies on the b. board in such a way so that they flip up, and then put the photo under the cookie.

You can omit the name spatulas or have children glue them to their cookie making sure that they glue it so that they can be viewed correctly when "flipped-up".

As with that game, allow students time to interview their new friends to see if they can figure out whose cookie belongs to whom and award a prize to the student who has the most glyphs correct when the timer rings.



## **Cookie Glyph Etc.**

For a fun addition to the end of the activity, have milk and cookies for a snack and ask your students this riddle: "*Why did the cookie go to the doctor?*" "*Because he was feeling crumby!*"

I hope you enjoy this activity with your new batch of sweeties!

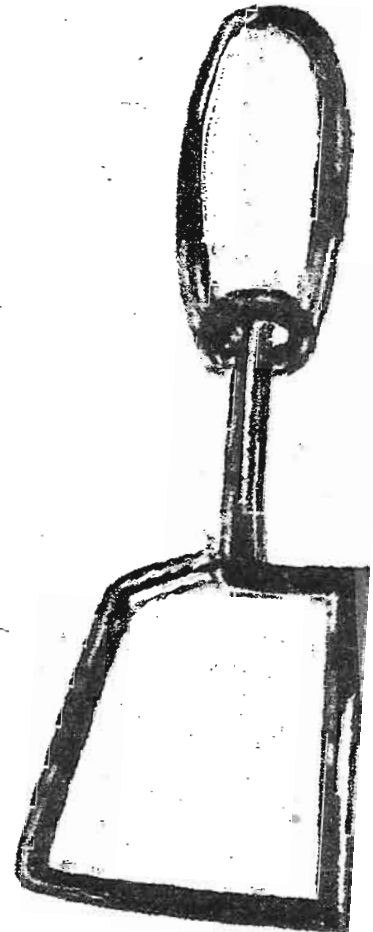
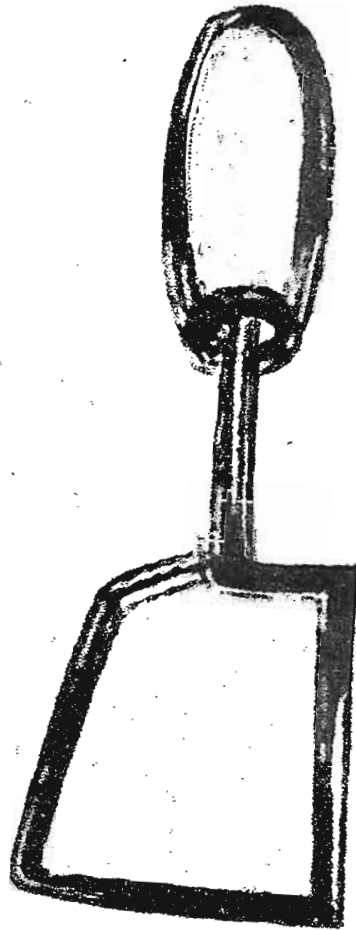
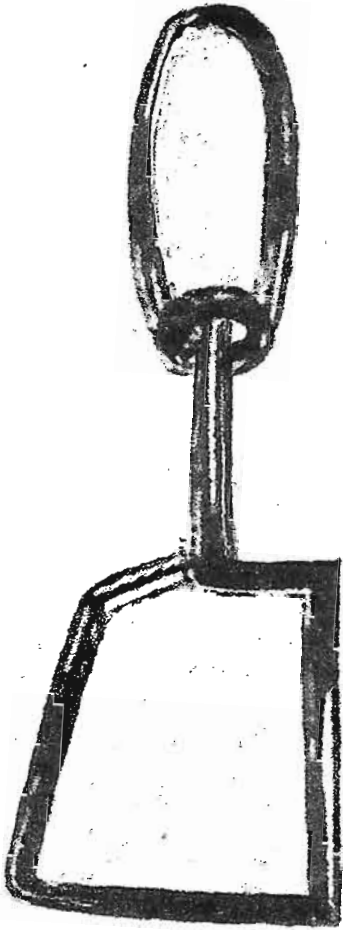
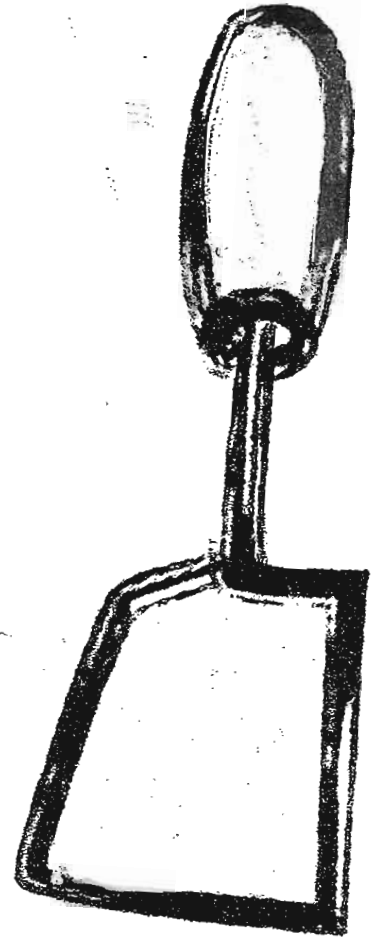
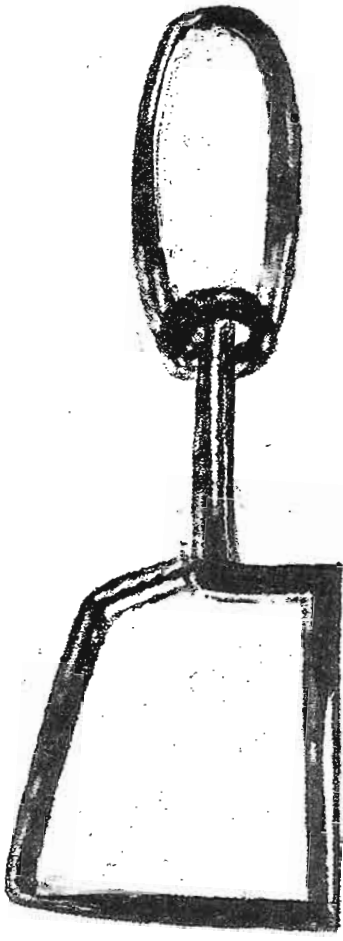
This would also be something fun to do with the entire family over summer break, or to plug in if you're teaching summer school.



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## ***Recipe for a great school year!***

### **Ingredients:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ really smart students.
- 1 really excited teacher named \_\_\_\_\_.
- Tons of fun-filled lessons.

### **Directions:**

1. Mix together daily from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Combine with smiles and hugs.
3. Keep cozy from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Will result in very happy and smart students ready for \_\_\_\_\_.



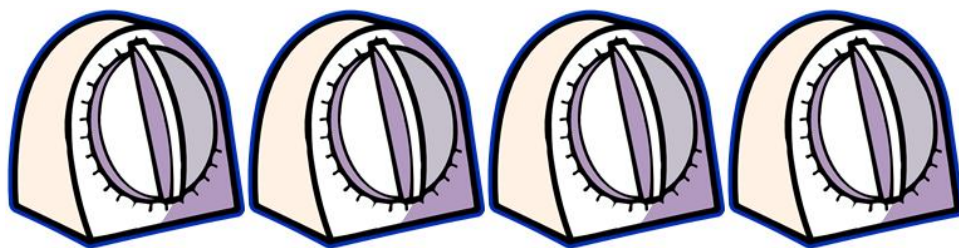
1. Fill in with start and end TIME.
3. Fill in with start and end of school MONTH.
4. Fill in with the next grade.

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# Helpful Reminder Things For School



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I have about 4 timers at school. I use them to REMIND me of a variety of things. One of the most important is when I put a child in the Time Out Chair. Sometimes they are so good about thinking about a better behavior, they forget how long they've been sitting there, and so do I. 5 minutes is a long time for a 5-year-old, but goes really quickly when you're a teacher doing a zillion other things, so a timer is a must-have for me!

I have other things that I've developed to help my parents and students remember things from posters to magnets to assignment books and calendars. I think teaching organization to your students is an important life skill. My parents have told me they appreciate the reminders and it makes for happier and smarter students, a win-win situation all around.

Here are some fun and easy things that you can do to help yourself, students and parents REMEMBER!

- Set timers to go off.
- Post times on the board.

Even tho' my Y5's can't tell time, they can compare and match. I have 3 times of the day that they are most interested in: When is recess; when is it lunch time and when do we get to go home?

I make 3 clocks and laminate them and post them on my white board. Each one is labeled: Recess, Lunch, Done for the day! They can look at the hands of those clocks and can compare them to the hands of our class clock.

My students rarely ask me these same 3 questions all day long, and if they do, I tell them to look at the clocks and become a detective and see if they can figure it out. I use it as a teachable moment to do some math. i.e., how much longer is it before...

- Send reminder notes home. Sometimes these are half notes or just a strip of paper the size of a bookmark; sometimes they are a slap bracelet.
- I put notes on children at the end of the day and pin them in the middle of their backs. I find that some parents do not check backpacks.
- Sometimes I run off labels with things that I need to remind parents of on a monthly basis.
- I simply put the sticker on their child's shirt at the end of the day. Parents have given me wonderful feedback about this form of FYI-reminder. Saves me time and paper and the hassle of having to pin things on children or put things in cubbies, folders or backpacks. Parents tell me they take the sticker off and put it on the mirror, doorjamb or car window to help remember.
- Send a monthly calendar home.
- Give students a weekly calendar for them to fill out.
- Send a weekly newsletter home.
- Empower your students and teach them responsibility by having them keep track of their assignments. Write them on the board and then have students copy them down. If they complete them, they check them off. Train parents to ask to see this assignment booklet.
- I've made one up for you to run off. Have students glue the cover on a folded sheet of colored construction paper of their choice. Glue the cover on AFTER you have stapled pages on the inside of both sides. This way the staples won't show.
- Tying a string on your finger has been a symbol of remembering so run off my drawing on a variety of flesh-toned construction paper; laminate the paper and have students cut their hand out and tie a piece of yarn or ribbon on the finger. Staple the yarn/ribbon or tape it on the back.
- Students can write themselves notes with a dry erase marker, or a permanent marker and use a Mr. Clean eraser to rub their note off, or they can add sticky notes to the back of their hand.
- You can make these ahead of time and give them as a gift, or have students make their own.
- Make a "Don't Forget" Happy face magnet and hot glue it to a clothespin. Students can help with these, or you can make them

ahead of time and give them as a gift. Send home the magnet letter with the magnet for parents to jot themselves notes to remember important things.

- Print the reminder posters and have a wall area where you post important things to REMEMBER, everything from rules like “*i before e except after c.*” “*When 2 vowels go walking the first one does the talking.*” or your class rules, or spelling words.
- In this “Remember” section I post who has the Secret Sack (my version of Show & Tell), who has the Snack Sack (Who is bringing in snack, My snack calendar) My “*Where Am I?*” poster for students who are pull outs and have to be somewhere on certain days.
- There is also a hook hung with two-way tape that holds a set of laminated rainbow cards. (You can pick any kind of die cut card at a teacher’s store and laminate and then number them. ) Above it a sign says: How Many Students Are Here Today? This helps me remember at a glance how many children are in my room at any given time should there be an emergency and my brain leaves my head as sometimes happens when bells, sirens, and screaming is taking place.
- I use this as a math extension every morning. We count students together, find that number card, show the card and identify that number, compare it to yesterday’s number and see if it is lesser, greater or equal to?
- If a child leaves with another teacher, the card is changed and then changed again when they come back. If a child goes to the bathroom a bathroom tag is put on top of the number so I know at all times how many children I have and who is where.

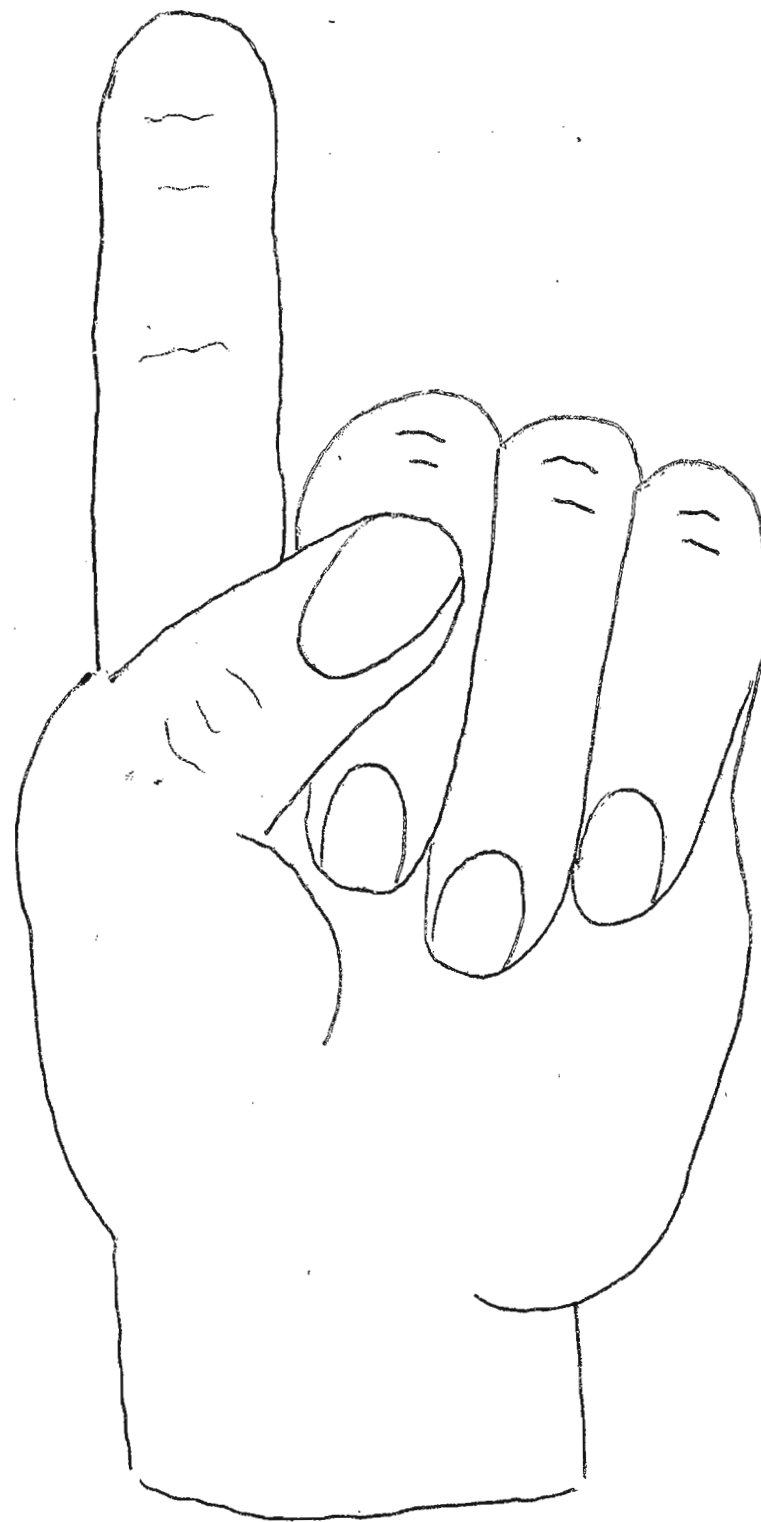
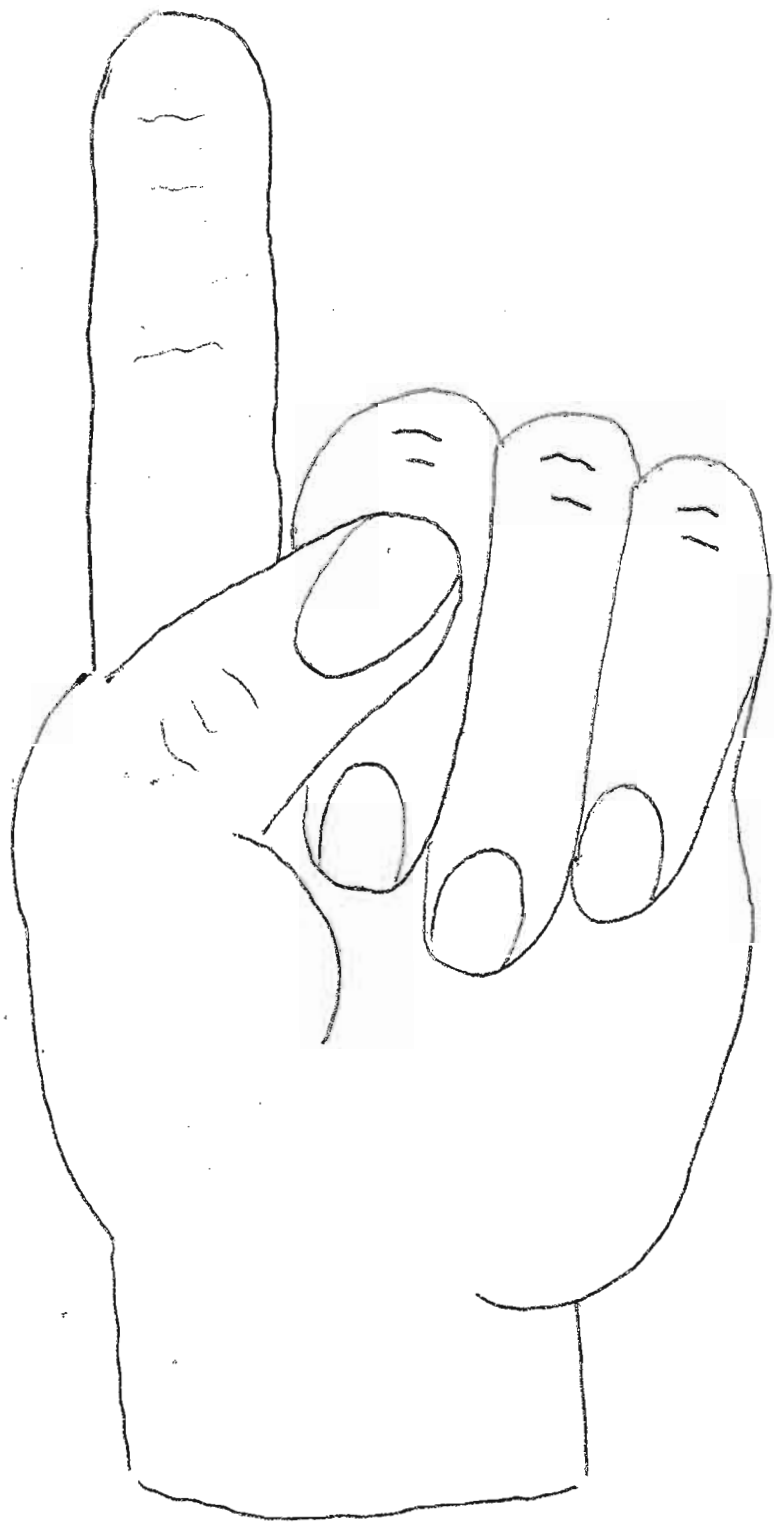






Diane









My Assignments

Diane H.



Subject:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Assignment:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Due:

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My Assignments

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My Assignments

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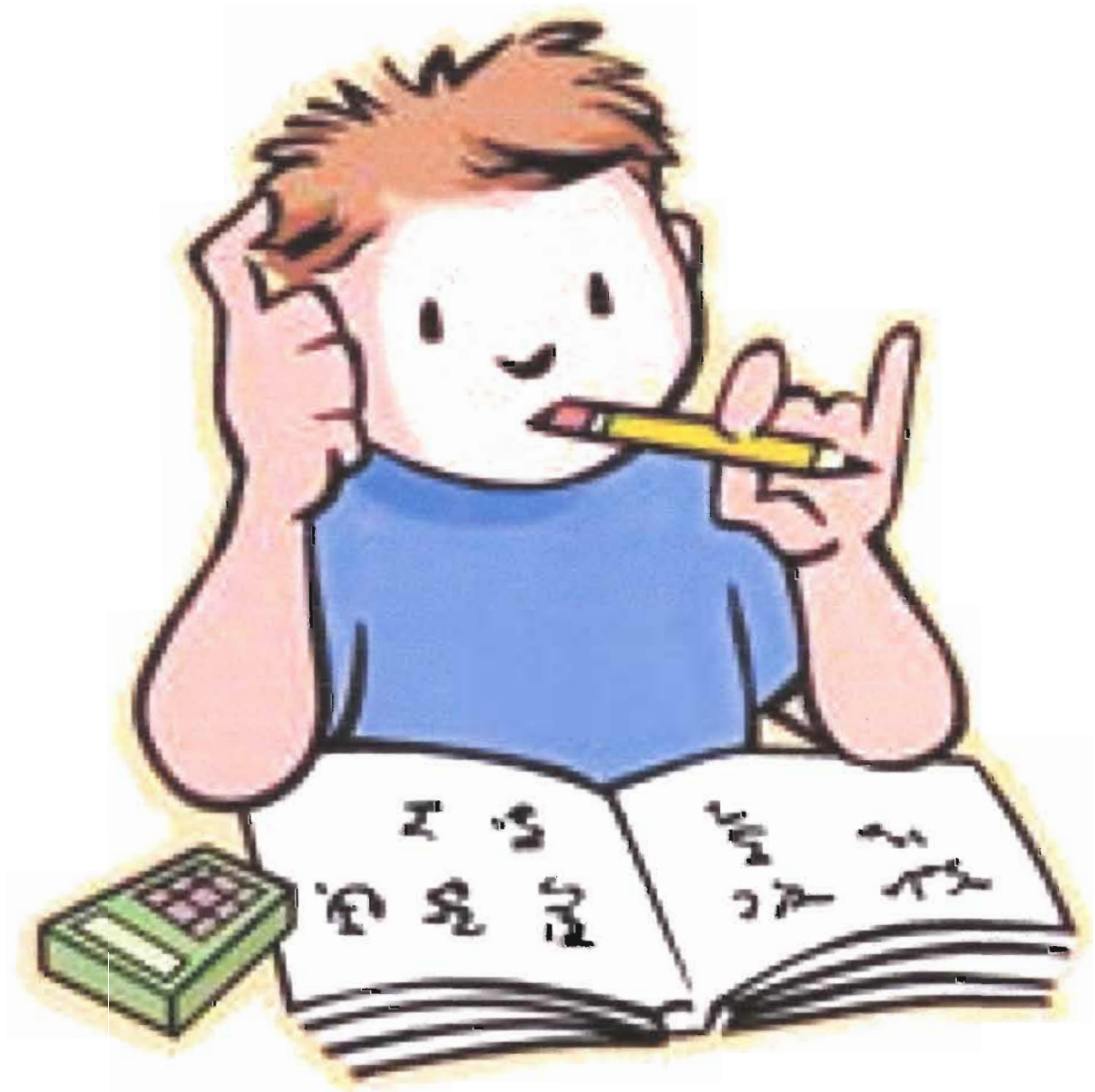
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**Don't  
FORGET!**



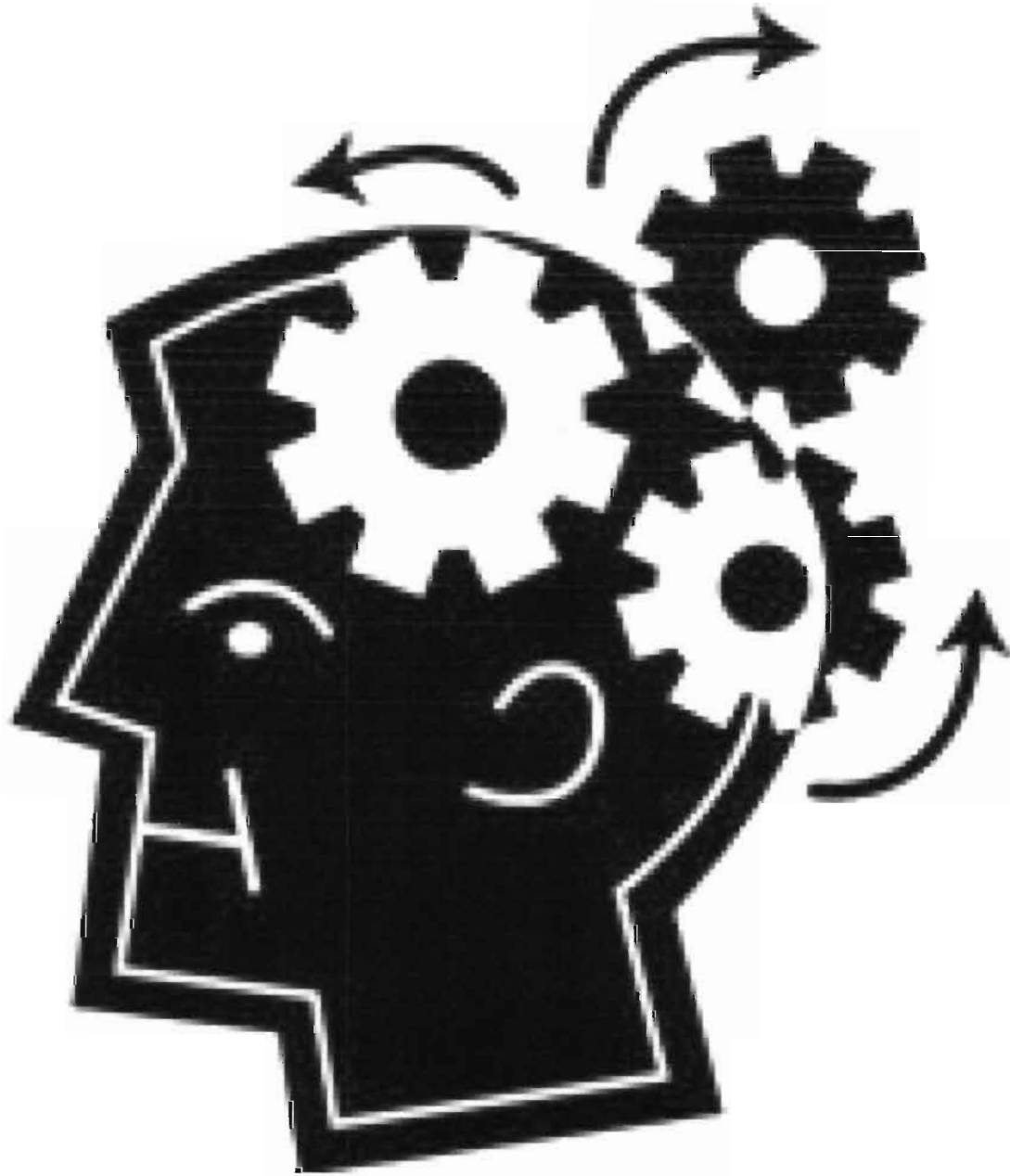


Homework Assignments:





Spelling Words:



Remember:



Remember These Rules:





Just a friendly reminder:



Just a friendly reminder:



Just a friendly reminder:





Dear Families,

*Here is a little gift for you  
A magnet to help remember the things your child  
has to do!*

In my newsletters and notes home you will be informed of special events, assignments and other things that are important to remember.

Why not jot them down on a separate note and clip them to the clothespin?

Hang the magnet on your refrigerator to help you remember these special things.

Being organized is an important life skill that I'm helping your child learn. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

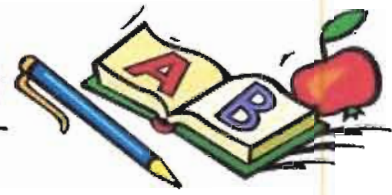
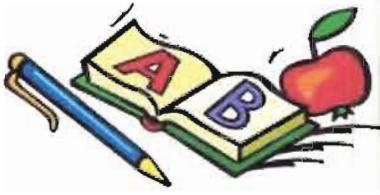
Educationally Yours,



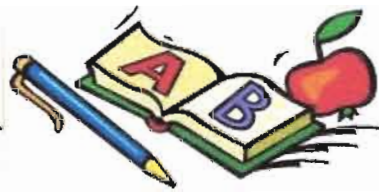
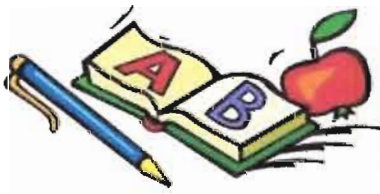
**Don't  
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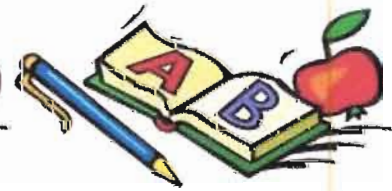
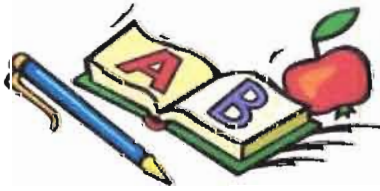




Just a reminder: Your child's project is due tomorrow.



Just a reminder: Your child's project is due tomorrow.



Just a reminder: Your child's project is due tomorrow.



Just a reminder: We have a fieldtrip tomorrow.

Time:

Place:

Remember:



Just a reminder: We have a fieldtrip tomorrow.

Time:

Place:

Remember:



Just a reminder: Your child's bringing

Thank you.



Just a reminder: Your child's bringing

Thank you.







Just a reminder: Money for  
Due:



Just a reminder: Money for  
Due:



Just a reminder: Money for  
Due:



Just a reminder: School Pictures Tomorrow!



Just a reminder: School Pictures Tomorrow!



Just a reminder: School Pictures Tomorrow!



**Reminder:**

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**Reminder:**

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**Reminder:**

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**Reminder:**

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**Reminder:**

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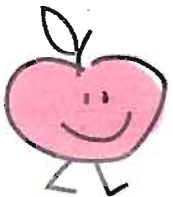
**Reminder:**

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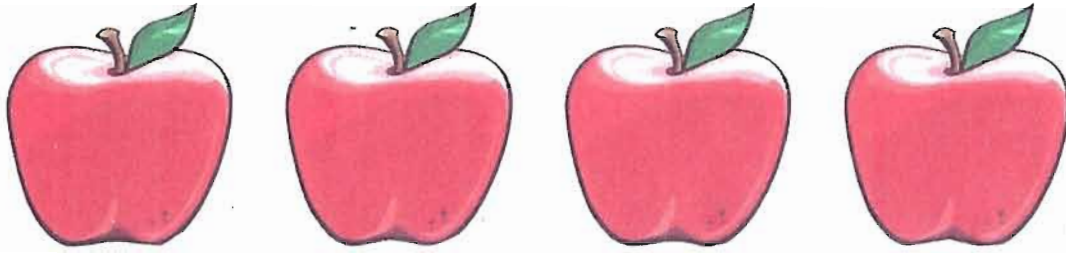
**Reminder:**

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**Reminder:**

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# School Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday





# School Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday



[illegible]



# To Do List

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# To Do List



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## **Surveys: Fun Ice Breakers For The First Day/Week Of School**

Are you trying to think of something different to do as an icebreaker for a fun first day or week of school activity? How about a survey?

My Y5's love carrying around a clipboard and asking questions. It makes them feel "grown up" and important, or so they tell me when I ask them why everyone always wants to use my clipboards.

I finally broke down and bought a class set. You can buy packs of 12 at Sam's Club for a reasonable price. They've come in handy for this purpose as well as having them write in the hallway when we go on measurement adventures, or outside when we go on scientific explorations to collect data.

They are great as lapboards for when I have students writing in a circle on the floor as well, so I have certainly got my money's worth!

### **Directions:**

- Gather your students together and brainstorm a list of yes or no questions and write them on the board.
- I've also included a list of suggestions.
- Each child chooses a different question.
- Set a timer and allow students to take their survey sheet and clipboard around to interview their new friends.
- Older students can write their friend's name in the appropriate column, younger students can simply mark an X.
- The teacher should also participate.
- After the timer rings, give students a moment to add up each column.
- Gather students back into a circle to share their results.
- Everyone learns a little bit about every body in a fun way.
- You can even graph results as a math extension.

I hope you have fun breaking that ice, making friends and melting hearts!



# My Survey

Question: \_\_\_\_\_



**yes**



**no**

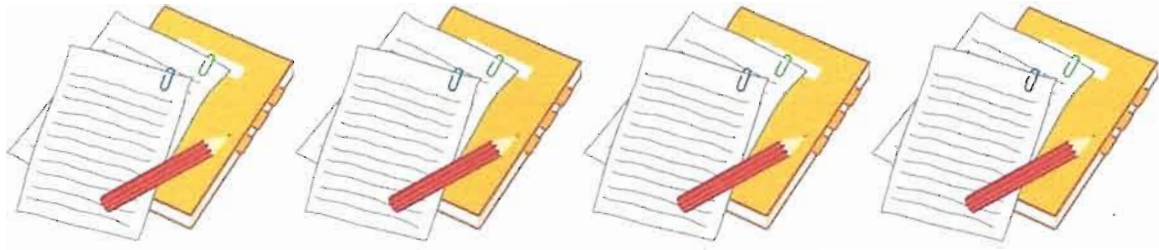

[illegible]



**Survey Results:** Were there more yes answers to our surveys or more no answers?

[illegible]

[illegible]



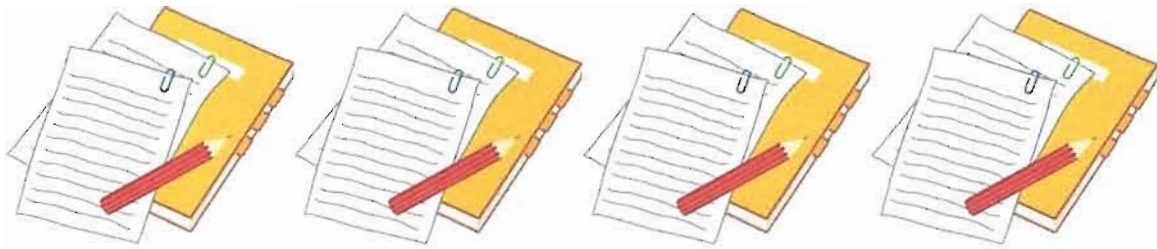
## Possible Survey Questions

1. Do you have a sister?
2. Do you have a brother?
3. Do you have a pet?
4. Do you ride the bus to school?
5. Do you take hot lunch?
6. Do you eat cold lunch?
7. Does your bike have training wheels?
8. Do you like summer better than winter?
9. Are you allergic to anything?
10. Are you the oldest kid in your family?
11. Do you know how to swim?
12. Have you ever been fishing?
13. Have you ever been camping?
14. Have you ever seen a tiger?
15. Do you like school?
16. Do you like peanut butter?
17. Do you like pineapples?
18. Have you ever been to Disney Land?
19. Have you ever seen the ocean?
20. Have you ever flown a kite?
21. Have you lost a tooth?
22. Have you ever ridden a skate board?
23. Do you have your own radio?
24. Have you ever used a cell phone?
25. Do you know how to use a computer?
26. Have you been to the library?
27. Have you been to the zoo?
28. Have you gone to a museum?
29. Can you skip?



30. Do you know when your birthday is?
31. Are you 6? (You can choose an appropriate age for your class.)
32. Can you spell your name?
33. Can you read?
34. Do you know your address?
35. Do you know your phone number?
36. Does your mom work?
37. Do you know where your dad works?
38. Have you ever visited a farm?
39. Do you play a sport?
40. Have you ever went bowling?
41. Have you ever been to another state?
42. Have you ever been to another country?
43. Is there a baby in your house?
44. Do you play an instrument?
45. Do you like chocolate milk better than white milk?
46. Do you like Lady GaGa? (Whatever other musician you can think of that they might relate to.)
47. Can you write your name?
48. Can you spell any words?
49. Can you zip your own coat?
50. Can you tie your shoes?





- These are just a few off the top of my head that would be appropriate for my Y5's.
- I'm sure you'll think of many others.
- You can use these, or type up your own list.
- Brainstorm with your students and see if they can come up with one on their own.
- Write the sentences on the board so they can copy them, or use your list, have them choose one, and then cut the question, and have them glue it to their paper.
- Set a timer for them to go around the room and interview their new friends.
- Remind them that they have only X amount of time to ask X amount of students their question.
- Have them mark an X under the appropriate answer.
- Older students can write the person's name so that they are truly getting to know their new friends, or you can print off names on address label sheets for them to stick on their graphs.





# Congratulations!

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is a successful survey taker.  
Keep up the super star work!



Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Back-To-School Themed Books**

These are GREAT books to read for the first 2 weeks of school!

The yellow highlighted ones are my all-time favorites.

1. A Monster Followed Me to School ~ Mercer Mayers
2. A Bug, A Bear, and A Boy Go to School ~ David McPhail
3. Barney And Little Bop Go To School
4. **Chrysanthemum ~ Kevin Henkes**
5. Curious George Goes to School ~ Margaret and H.A. Reys
6. **First Day Jitters**, Julie Dannenberg
7. Franklin Goes to School
8. Froggy Goes To School, Jonathan London  
Kindergarten Rocks, Katie Davis
9. Lilly's Purple Purse, Kevin Henkes (Teacher takes away Lilly's purse because she's causing a distraction with jingling quarters.)
10. Little Critter's This is My School ~ Mercer Mayer
11. Little Kids at School ~ Jeffie Ross Gordon
12. Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers ~  
Merle Peek
13. **Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten ~ Joseph Slate Morris**
14. **llama llama misses mama ~ Anna Dewdney**
15. Morris the Moose Goes to School ~ B. Wiseman
16. My Teacher My Friend ~ P.K. Hallinan
17. My Teacher Sleeps in School ~ Leatie Weiss
18. My Brown Bear
19. My Pet Monster Goes to School ~ Dennis Fertig
20. My Teacher is a Vampire ~ Mercer Mayers
21. Nathan's First Day of School
22. Never Spit on Your Shoes ~ Denys Cazet
23. Off to School ~ Ann Schweninger
24. On the Way To School, Kay Moberg
25. Owen, Kevin Henkes (A boy cannot take his blanket to kindergarten)
26. Pooh's First Day of School ~ Kathleen W. Zoehfeld
27. Rotten Ralph's First Day of School, Jack Gantos and Nicole Rubel
28. Sea Monster's First Day, Kate Messnerz



29. School Bus ~ Donald Crews
30. The Berenstain Bears Go to School ~ Jan and Stan Berenstain
31. The First Day of School ~ P.K. Hallinan
32. The First Day of School, Patricia Reid
33. The First Day Of School, Tony Johnston
34. The Bully From the Black Lagoon, Mike Thaler
35. The Cafeteria Lady From the Black Lagoon, Mike Thaler
36. The Class Pet From the Black Lagoon, Mike Thaler
37. The Gym Teacher From the Black Lagoon ~ Mike Thaler
38. The Librarian From the Black Lagoon ~ Mike Thaler
39. The New Kid From the Black Lagoon, Mike Thaler
40. The Principal From the Black Lagoon ~ Mike Thaler
41. The School Bus Driver From the Black Lagoon, Mike Thaler
42. The School Nurse From the Black Lagoon ~ Mike Thaler
43. The Teacher From the Black Lagoon ~ Mike Thaler
44. The Wheels on the Bus
45. This is the Way We Go to School ~ Edith Baer
46. The Kissing Hand, Audrey Penn
47. The Night Before Kindergarten, Natasha Wing
48. The Night Before First Grade, Natasha Wing
49. We Like Kindergarten, Clara Cassidy.
50. Wemberly Worried, Kevin Henkes
51. Will I Have a Friend? ~ Miriam Cohen
52. Who Goes To School, Margaret Hillert

**Etc.**

***Nice books with "About me" theme if you do that.***

1. All I Am, Eileen Roe
2. How Have I Grown, Mary Reid
3. It's Hard Being 5 Jamie Lee Curtis

***Nice book for a review with your rules.***

1. Thingamajigs Book of Manners, Irene Keller