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Calendar Bear Calendars

Calendar Sweater Bears

Calendar Bear Monthly Pieces

Welcome Oval Pieces

A “Bear-y” fun way to teach the calendar

Background:

- As always I ask my teacher friends what they found hard to find.
- Everyone was in agreement that there wasn't a whole lot out there on the calendar, yet it was one of the things they needed to teach at the kindergarten level.
- It was also something the children weren't all that interested in 'til calendar bear came along...
- Now it's a looked-forward to activity as well as a special keepsake for parents at the end of the year.

Materials:

- Extra large multi-colored construction paper. (, Red for February, Green for December etc.)
- Regular Construction paper Brown for the bears
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Masters
- Velcro
- Manila Envelope
- Laminating

Directions:

Calendar Sweater Bear:

1. Get a stuffed bear for your classroom. It doesn't matter if he's well-loved.
2. Each year have the students vote on a name for Calendar Bear.
3. Some of my cuter ones have been Cimmanon (yes, that's spelled correctly and does refer to cinnamon), Oatmeal, Spice, and simply Calendar Bear.
4. My calendar bear has actual monthly sweaters that a special child gets to change each month. That company is since gone, but you can pick

- up some seasonal ones to fit a medium-sized bear at *Michael's* craft stores.
5. Run a copy of the bear off on brown construction paper.
 6. Add details with crayons.
 7. Run off color copies of the sweaters, or black & white if you want to color them yourself.
 8. Laminate the sweaters.
 9. Put 2 Velcro Dots on the bear and two reverse dots on each sweater.
 10. Put the Bear up in your calendar area or on the black/white board.
 11. I keep the sweater pieces in monthly order in a laminated manila file folder that I have cut in half so that the pieces stick out.
 12. I keep the envelope in a rectangular basket along with the other bear calendar pieces in similar envelopes.
 13. Children LOVE getting their turn to put on a sweater or calendar piece.
 14. Making your calendar more of a “hands-on” experience, gets them to pay much better attention to the information you want them to learn during this valuable lesson time.
 15. I also make a bear for each of my students so they can have it in their room at home.
 16. I have provided a set of sweaters that can be colored by them and cut out like paper doll clothes used to, that they can keep in a baggie and change at home on their own personal b. boards.
 17. I have my students make their bear and the September sweater 1st.
 18. I provide a large storage baggie with their name sticker on it and note tucked in about the Calendar Bear project the 1st month of school, then I give them a copy to cut and color each month whenever time permits, or I tuck it in their Take Home Folder if I don't have time after our regular Calendar Time.

Calendar Bear Calendars:

1. The first day of school that the month has changed we work on a new calendar page for our Keepsake Calendar Book.
2. The calendar book is made up of extra large sheets of multi-colored construction paper.
3. Try and choose a different color for each month.
4. The TOP of the paper has a picture of the monthly calendar bear that the children color and write the name of the month on.
5. I have the students “autograph” their bear as if they were an artist.
6. The BOTTOM of the paper has a calendar grid of that month.

7. I have provided an empty calendar grid for you to fill out.
8. I fold this large sheet of construction paper in half so it's easier for the children to work with.
9. Besides numbering it, I suggest you write in things that are special to your classroom like fieldtrips, picture day, holidays, special theme days, parties etc. Anything that you are doing that you'd like your students to be able to remember.
10. I also put in who has a birthday.
11. I make a copy of our class picture for each one of my students To make their calendar even more special, I have them glue the birthday child's photo in that calendar space. If I have 2 children's birthday's fall on the same day I shrink their pictures and put them on a diagonal.
12. I give the children stickers to put on special squares too. For example for Valentine's Day I give everyone a heart sticker to put on February 14th, A pumpkin for pumpkin carving day and a Halloween sticker for party day etc.
13. The children enjoy decorating their calendars with stickers and it helps them match special number dates to the stickers. Great 1-to-1 correspondence. This also makes their calendar more like a scrapbook too.
14. When we get to June, I have them make a cover, July and August page on 3 different days.
15. I have the children GLUE their calendar worksheet to the back of their calendar.
16. I store the calendar pages in a plastic crate. I have a file folder for each child. The folder just acts as a separation card. I lay all that child's folded pages in front of their file folder.
17. When we've done the last page I bind them all with the plastic binding machine. It's a wonderful keepsake of their Y5 or Kindergarten year.
18. The consistent worksheet makes calendar information finally sink in. The bear activity makes it easy and fun.
19. Because this book goes from the beginning of the school year to the end, it works like a sort of portfolio in that it shows their progress in writing, coloring, and following directions.

Calendar Bear Monthly Pieces

1. Run off another bear on brown construction paper.
2. GLUE him to a white sheet of construction paper.
3. Add details with crayons.

4. Laminate it.
5. Put one Velcro dot inside his hands.
6. Print off color copies of the oval pieces or black and white ones and you color.
7. Laminate them and cut them out.
8. Put the opposite Velcro dot in the middle of each of the oval monthly pieces.
9. Under the bear will be the monthly signs. They will be inserted into two side slits.
10. Decide where you want to put the signs and cut two side slits.
11. Put a magnet in each corner on the back of your construction paper if you want to hang on your black/white board or just hang it somewhere else you want to note and change the month.
12. Even tho' this is similar to the sweater bear I post him in my storytelling area. It's another way to review the date with my students as the month is something they still have trouble with. I do this bear when I do the paper chain. I could have a dozen bears and they'd never get tired of having a turn to do something with it either.

Welcome oval pieces:

1. Except for a few months, the WELCOME oval pieces are the same as the monthly bear pieces.
2. I have this outside my door. I LOVE decorating and this is another way I get to review the calendar when we're waiting in the hallway for children to finish up in the bathroom.
3. Laminate the WELCOME.
4. Use the oval pieces as a substitute for the letter O.
5. Laminate the monthly name pieces. Insert them in slits next to the WELCOME.
6. If you want you can make another card that says: To _____'s Kindergarten Classroom.
Room 301 or whatever you'd like to put on it. You can also just put up the WELCOME and not bother with the monthly names.
Enjoy!