

The Primary Success Notebook



From Primary Success Publications

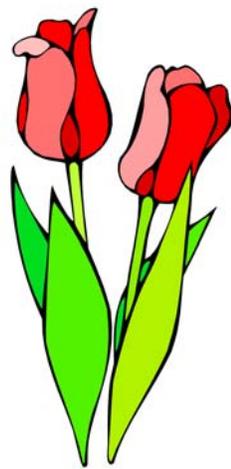
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Amazing April!



April is the month in Canada when we really begin to feel that the long winter is finally over and spring is here. Now that spring break is over and Easter, too, we begin the last term of the school year in earnest.

April is the month when most teachers plant seeds in the classroom. Look in the Primary Success 'Planting Seeds' freebie for lots of ideas to make this fun.

Make sure your classroom reflects the change of the seasons. Decorate with background papers that you can leave up until the end of June - yellow and green are good choices. Give

the classroom a complete tidy-up for Earth Day, recycling all that paper that accumulates.

This year there are no holidays in April after Easter Monday on the 1st, so this is a great month to concentrate on solid academic progress, and with that, try to get your students outdoors to look for signs of spring and to play spring games. Enjoy April!

Jean

About Primary Success Publications....

We are a Canadian company, based in B.C. on beautiful Vancouver Island. We have been producing resources for primary teachers since 1995. Teachers appreciate the practical easy-to-teach programs in sight reading, phonics, spelling, writing, math, science, P.E. and social studies. A high percentage of our orders come from teachers or schools who are using some of our other items, and we get many new customers because teachers share their pleasure with their colleagues.

If you enjoy 'The Notebook', pass it on to your friends. They can join the e-mail list from the website and receive all the freebies, too!

Go to the website for great free booklets and ideas. Just click on 'The Notebook' link and the 'Freebies' link on the home page.



Library Books

Do you want more books in your classroom library, but the school won't buy you new ones? There are books to be found in all sorts of unlikely places for little money!

- Go to thrift/second hand stores. Plan to make a trip to your local Goodwill or Value Village quite frequently. Pick books that have some literary value. Check to see that there aren't pages missing or scribbled pages.

- Watch for garage sales, especially those where children's items are advertised. Get out early on Saturday mornings and reap the rewards! You can often get a pile of books for a very low price.

- Book stores often have sales of books that have not sold.

- Scholastic and the other companies that sell through teachers have great incentives - often a lot of classroom books - free.

- Sales at your local library often have very inexpensive books. Ask when the books will be on sale and arrive early....

- Instead of giving you Christmas presents, ask that your parents donate a book to the classroom. This can be a student gift exchange at Christmas - each child bringing a wrapped book which he/she unwraps for the classroom.

- For a child's birthday, the child can bring a book in and open it for the classroom. Put a label inside the book with the child's name and date.

- Solicit donations from parents and others.

"I sort my fictional library books by author. This is good on several levels - one, the students become aware of books written by the same person and will often read through all the books by one author. Next, the students get good with alphabetical order. I teach a number of lessons on this and soon they can easily put the books back where they belong.

The books also have a level sticker on the spine, so children can find books that suit their reading levels or choose books that interest them even if the level is not perfect."

"I am torn between books on shelves and books in baskets. The children like to find books in baskets because they can see the covers easily, but the books are not treated as well in the baskets."

"I think it is really important to write my name or stamp my name in each book so parents will be able to spot the ones that belong to the classroom, as well as the sticker tag."

"I did a Works database of all my classroom books. I put the book name in one column, the author in another, the reading level if applicable, the genre, and other tags. Now I can sort these into reading levels, into authors, into genres, etc., with just a click - and it is so helpful! A lot of work, but great when I want a specific book or group of books. I did this first when I taught Grade Three and the kids had access to the list."

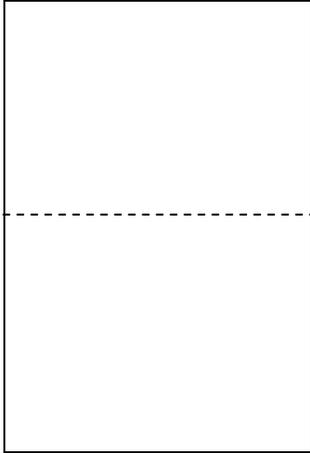
"I did a sorting exercise with my library books. I put hula hoops down on the floor and then let the kids sort. It took them a while to get organized but then they had good fun with it."

"I display all the favourite chapter books that my kids especially enjoy reading. I keep adding to the display, talking up the new ones and the kids can hardly wait until they get to read them."

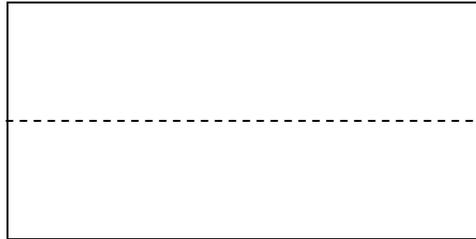
Making A Mini-Book

You may have to do this to visualize it! The kids love to write in these little books.

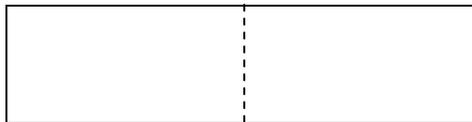
Step 1 - Begin with a piece of copy paper or newsprint. Fold in half.



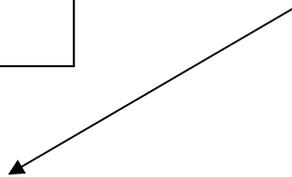
Step 2 - fold in half again, the 'hotdog' way.



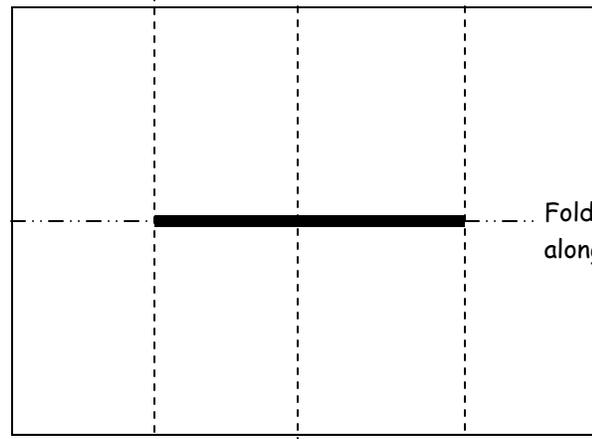
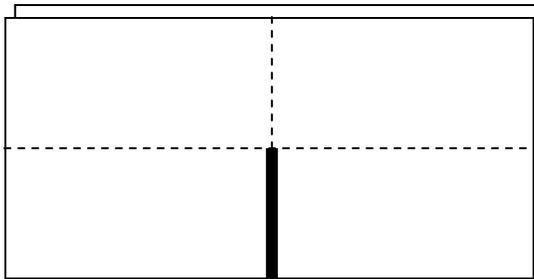
Step 3 - fold in half again.



Step 5 - Open the sheet completely, then fold once the 'hotdog' way.



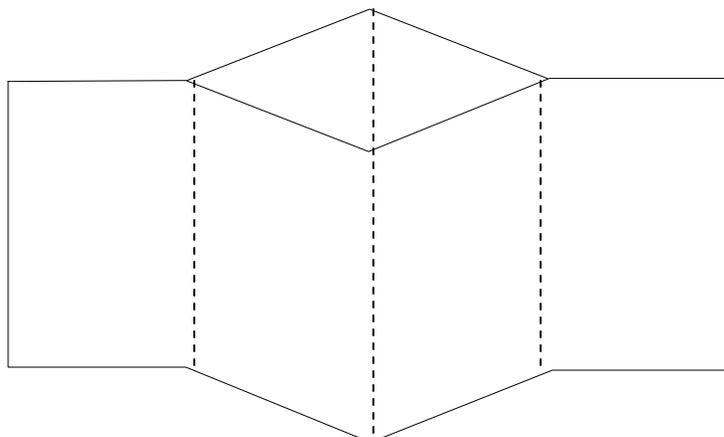
Step 4 - Open halfway and cut as shown.



Fold the sheet along this line.

Step 6 - Push the ends together until they meet. Now you can see the 8 pages of the book. Glue the double pages together.

Hold this end and push towards the center.



Hold this end and push towards the center.

Word Walls

"I'm a big advocate for word walls. In terms of space, it can be challenging, but I found that my kids were the best spellers ever these last two years. I currently have my word wall on the cupboard doors which run along the side of my classroom. At other times I had them taped on the wall running around the top of the classroom and another time, when I had virtually no wall space, I drilled holes by the windows, hung wire, and put up laminated sheets of butcher block paper (one color for consonants and a different one for vowels). Then I just hung the words up on the sheets.

My words are written on different colours of neon paper and then cut in the configuration of the words. I use different colours so that the children can distinguish more easily among the words. This is particularly important for those children who are having difficulty with reading. If I say that it's under the "t" 10 words that look all the same won't be much help. Instead, I can say, "It's one of the green words. What sound does your word end with? Do you see one up there on green that ends that way?"

A few teachers in my building have stopped doing word walls because they said that they weren't effective. In many cases, the reason was because using the word wall wasn't something that the children were taught. Our word wall words are brought up constantly during the day - morning message, word wall time, specific word wall activities, clap and chant, etc... Many people would just introduce the word, stick it on the wall and then expect the magic to work. It is a skill that needs to be mastered, developed, and used. Plus, the children **MUST ALWAYS BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR SPELLING THE WORD WALL WORDS CORRECTLY!!!** Any writing that a child does - journal, dialogue journals, science logs, you name it... if a word wall word was spelled incorrectly they had to go back and fix it - no exceptions. The use of spelling patterns and activities that support them should also be tied to the word wall words. If you are doing the "an" family then you need to have them look for "an" words on the word wall.

I loop Grade One/Two grade with my students so I was able to see their growth over two years. The words from the end of Grade One were just kept on the cupboards for the second grade and new words were added. When I knew that some words were mastered by all (I, a, the, etc.) I began to take them off the wall to "wean" them. At the end of Grade Two I gave them a spelling test of the 200 most frequently used words and all my students but 4 had over 90%. They weren't told about it ahead of time, weren't given sheets to practice from, we just did it. The other four students (including 2 special needs) were 80% or better. Needless to say, I was thrilled.

I attribute their success to 3 things:

1. Being held accountable
2. Clapping and chanting the words (Cunningham's Phonics They Use)
3. Seeing the relationship among word wall words, spelling patterns, vowel sounds, etc."



"One idea I like to use is 'chanting' the word wall. I have a class list up and we take turns using a heavy piece of paper rolled into a cone shape yelling 'Give me a...' and saying a word from the word wall. The rest of the class spells the word and then says the word again giving a thumbs up sign. They absolutely love this and it is a great way to review the word wall words."

"The words need to be large enough for children to see from their seats. I don't laminate the words because I found there was glare from the shiny finish. We clap and chant the words every Monday morning like a cheer. Some days we call out words and use them in sentences. Other days we write them on individual blackboards that they keep at their seats. I write sentences on the board and leave out word wall words and they choose the correct word to complete the sentence."

More Word Walls

"You can also play 'Guess My Word. Each child prints the numbers to 5.

Clue number 1 is always the same - the word is on the word wall. The children guess the word I am talking about and print that word by number 1.

For clue number 2, I tell them how many letters are in the word, and they print their guess.

Clue #3 - the word begins with

Clue #4 - The word contains this sound.....

Clue #5 - the word rhymes with..... or means the same as or ?

All children should have the right word printed by number 5.

"You can also do word sort - children find all the words that have certain features and write them down. (short /a/ or words that have a certain blend, etc.)"

"My kids like to play Wordo. It is played like bingo. Call on students to pick 9 words off the word wall. Write these on the board and children copy the words in the squares in random order. Then play like bingo except the children chant the spelling before anyone can cover their word."

"I do a lot of work with word endings with the word wall words. We practice making plurals and adding 'ed' and 'ing' endings, and the rules that go with these additions."

"I use flashlights to show words on the wall (the kids love having the lights out and the curtains drawn), flyswatters to hit the words, fairy wands to touch them, etc. Every day we practice finding the words, and then we clap and chant the words together."

The following word wall lists are just possible ones. Add other words that suit your children's writing.

Kindergarten Word Wall List

is has was no to do with the for we a said me my go he she and that you are
I have like play with (plus the children's names, colours and key words)

Grade One Word Wall List

after all am and animal are at be because best big boy brother but can can't car
come day did do down eat for friend from fun get girl give go good had has have
he her here him his house how I in is it jump kick like little look made make me
my new nice night no not of off old on out over people play pretty rain ride said
saw school see she sister some talk teacher tell that the them there they thing this
to up us very want was we went what when where who why will with won't you
your

Grade Two Word Wall List

the of and a to in is you that it he for was on are as with his they at be
this from I have or by one had not but what all were we there say an your
which their said if do will each about how up out them then she many some so
these would other into has more her two like him see time can been too its any
who day now same people right my look made think over also did around down another
only came way come find work use three may must water because long does little
part very even after place words well called such just here where take most why
know help get put through different back away much again go off good went could
new old no write number when make our great than me tell first man men small

Language Ideas

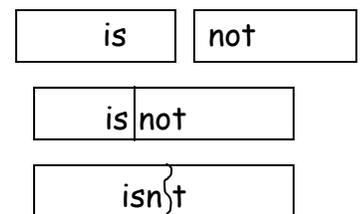
Contractions

"I have a huge supply of plain men's shirts and I painted big letters on the back. The kids put the shirts on backwards so the letters are on their chests. I call up students to spell can and not (for example). I give another child a piece of construction paper with an apostrophe drawn on it. To make can't I have that child come up and say, "I'm going to take your place. Can not is too much to say!" He says this first to the 'n' and then the 'o' in not. They leave, and then he gets in their spot, holding the apostrophe above his head; and the class says: "Squeeze!" and the children move together again.

Then I ask what new word we made and they say 'can't'. It's fun and we pass the apostrophe around so many kids get to do it. You could do the same thing with children just holding letter cards, but mine love the shirts! We use these same shirts for paint smocks."

"For a hands-on lesson on contractions, give each child two strips of paper (you could use sticky note paper). Have them write the first word on one so it is in the middle of the paper and the second word on the other paper so it starts on the left edge. Place the two pieces of paper together with the second over the first so it makes one word. Glue them together, to make one word.

Then have each child tear the 'o' out to show isn't. Then have them twist the 'o' piece of paper into an apostrophe and put it where it belongs. Some children need to actually experience it, and perhaps twisting the piece of paper in the apostrophe helps them remember that the apostrophe goes where the letter came out."



Alphabetical Order

"We began by singing the alphabet song. Then I used a pointer, on the end of which a full sheet of construction paper was placed, had the kids cover their eyes, and I covered one letter of the alphabet. They opened their eyes and had to guess which letter I had covered. Then all the kids had the chance to cover a letter, while the rest covered their eyes. Then they had a page in their workbook that had portions of the alphabet printed with some missing letters, like this: f ___ j k ___ n o p q. They filled in the missing letters successfully. I then gave them each 3 magnetic letters, randomly selected, and n sequential, like: f, r, a. They had to arrange them in alphabetical order, and when everyone was finished with their letters and I had checked them, they all passed them to the right. We did this about five times and then increased the letters to four and five. The next activity (the next day) was to put words in ABC order on worksheet. I had them circle the first letter of each of three words, and write a 1, 2, and 3 in front of the words to put them in order. It was a very successful lesson!"

"In my Grade Two/Three class we did a lot of alphabetical order practice. After they learned to put words in order to the first, second and third letter, I gave out simple dictionaries. We talked about where in the book we would find words.... the 'a' words in the beginning, 'm' and 'n' near the middle, and 'y' and 'z' words at the end. We practiced trying to open the dictionaries in the right place when I said a word.

Then we looked at the guide words on each page and saw that all the words came between these two words. I would say a word and the children tried to find what page it would be on by first opening the book as near the page as possible and then looking at the guide words.

Finally they tried to find the word, using all these cues. Once we found the word we discussed the pronunciation and how the book showed it and the word meanings.

The librarian used the skills I had taught to get the students to find different authors. She talked about where the alphabet letters were and then how the fictional books were placed."



Math Ideas

"As part of my daily math review I teach the math vocabulary. I have a chart on my math bulletin board where we add math words as they are taught. Here are some: addition, subtraction, plus, minus, difference, between, coin (and the coin names), digit, greater than, less than, hour (and other time words), measurement words - length, volume, weight, etc., even, odd, groups, numeral, solve, sum, temperature, total - and many more. I call it the 'math word wall'.

We also collect words in problems that give direction to the processes needed."

"I spend a lot of time teaching missing addends and moving numbers around in equations. It really helps my children learn the meaning of an equation and improves the subtraction results."

"As I teach place value I do a LOT of expanded notation. I have sentence strips and on them I have printed the expanded numbers... $4000 + 700 + 20 + 5$, for example, and they fold the paper so they can only see the digits we see in a usually written number. This really helps the children read larger numbers."

"We do measurement scavenger hunts. I have a list of lengths for them to find and they go around the room to look for them. It might be: Find something that is 8 cm. long. or.... Find something that is 25 cm wide."

"I teach Grade one and every morning we have Math first. One of the required skills is counting by rote .. starting from variety of starting points and using a variety of 'by'. Counting by ones, by twos, by tens. We do morning exercises and count (loudly). First by ones to 100 (we march, then change up the exercise at every group of 10). We count by 10's (leg lifts work well). We punch the air, using the nastiest face we can. Hard not to laugh when the teacher is doing it too. If we ever miss this (because of assemblies or whatever), my children really notice. They are fully awake after our morning exercises."

Odd and Even

If you're an even number, You always have a pair. So if you look around,
Your buddy will be there.

But ...

If you're an odd number, You'll be a lonely one. You may look for your
buddy, But you're the only one

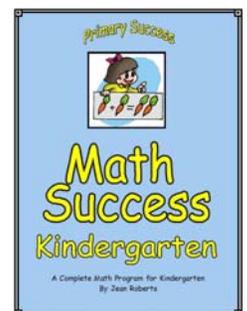


The Math Success Program

Primary Success Publications has an original math program that has been proven to work very well! Schools that use it report that their math scores have increased and the students are far ahead. The program uses strategies that increase understanding and give students alternative ways to approach math procedures that suit different learning styles. This program is for Kindergarten through Grade Three. Math Success is a complete program with teaching strategies, lesson plans, student practice sheets and assessment.

Go to our website to see sample lessons!

"I have been teaching for 14 years and have never had a group of Grade Twos come this far in Math ever. I totally love this program!"



Math Games

Smack!

"Draw a big square on the chalk board and divide it into 9 smaller squares. Place a different number in each square. One member from each team comes to the game board, gets a fly swatter and faces you as you call out a problem. Once the problem has been called students turn around and using their fly swatter hit the correct answer. The first student to hit the correct answer wins a point for that team. You can have the winning player stay up until he loses or have two new ones come up every time. So that students don't have to compete against the same player every time have students switch seating after one full round. This is an awesome game for review. It can be used for multiplication, division, subtraction, addition, money and many other things."

Make the Biggest Number

"I get my Grade Twos to play this place value game. They each get a paper with place value boxes - thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. They also get a set of number cards - 0 to 9. I say a number and they choose which box to put it in. When all have placed that number, I say another random single digit and they place that. There is no exchanging places once a card is placed. When four numbers have been called, we see who has made the largest number. Sometimes the game is to make the smallest number, too. Then we read all the numbers. They have to predict what numbers will follow. I often try to fool them! They love to play this and it really teaches them the place value. I have played this with Grade Threes and used up to 7 places (millions)."

Race for a Dollar!

"The students roll one die. They take that number of pennies indicated on the dice. When they can trade for nickel and then a dime they do so. The game continues until one student has \$1.00. Later in the year we trade for quarters, too. They can also play the game backwards. Begin with \$1.00 and exchange money so subtraction is possible. This is good when you are teaching subtraction with re-grouping."

Subtraction to 18 - The math ladder

This a different way to look at subtraction.

I have taught it as this: $15 - 8 = (10 + 5) - 8 = (10 - 8) + 5 = 2 + 5 = 7$ The following is another way to find the difference, and makes an easy 'trick' for the kids to use.

"If the problem was $15 - 8$: draw a ladder with 3 rungs. The bottom rung would be labelled 8, the middle 10 and the top 15.

The children know that it is 2 steps from 8 to 10, and 5 steps from 10 to 15, so $2 + 5 = 7$.

One more: $12 - 7$ bottom step 7, middle step 10, top step 12 $3 + 2 = 5$

The key is building off the steps from 10 which they know. It really works and easily transfers to a mental strategy."

Successful Science Lessons — Grade One

Sections are: the characteristics and needs of living things, plants, animals, the five senses, matter and materials, energy and motion, weather, the water cycle and daily and seasonal changes. There are lessons, exercise sheets, some little books, experiments and hands-on work. Initial reviews have been very positive! Samples are on the website.

Successful Social Studies — Grade One

This great new resource gives specific lesson plans for an entire year of Social Studies. It follows the curriculum expectations in all the provinces, with special emphasis on the child's world - the classroom, school and community, expanding outwards with understanding of interdependency, relationships and responsibilities. Beginning map skills are included.

Classroom Management

"I raise my hand as a quiet signal with my fingers forming an 'L' with the pointer finger and thumb. 'L' is for Look, Listen and Lock Lips!"

"I like to use the little plastic milk caps from the 2 litre jugs for various things. I pour glue into them and place one on each child's desk when we are doing art. They get a Q-tip and 'paint' glue onto the paper. This prevents a lot of mess! I also use these caps for art projects and as math counters."

Use Velcro on your calendar pieces! Buy the rolls of Velcro with the stick-on back and cut it into small pieces.

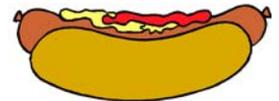
If you have jigsaw puzzles for your children to work on, put a coloured dot with felt pen on the back of all the piece in a box. With different coloured dots the puzzle pieces are much less likely to get lost or mixed up.

Hot-glue thumbtacks to clothespins. Then the tacks can be put into a bulletin board and the clothespins can hold several items at once.

Try using 'stress balls' with your ADHD or ODD kids. They have a texture that is irresistible and will give them something to do with those wiggles. Another teacher tapes a piece of that non-slip shelf liner (used in motor homes and boats) to the seat of the class wigglers.

Have a song box. Put the names of the songs or poems that your children have learned into the box on popsicle sticks and the children can reach in and choose a song or poem to sing at random.

This is an old idea - but then, ideas are not old if you haven't heard them before. Fold paper the hotdog or the hamburger way. Hotdog way makes the paper narrow and hamburger way makes the paper more square.



"I was really bored with my bulletin boards last spring, so I went out and bought cheap cotton in spring colours and stapled it to the boards. I was surprised - at the end of the season it didn't fade or look as tatty as paper backing. I used a pale blue fabric for the back of a spring board, with fluffy white clouds and rows of daffodils. It was really pretty!"

- I have my children pretend to be vacuum cleaners at clean-up time. They can make a soft humming noise, too - for some reason that gets them to clean-up faster.

All my kids have a number that they keep all year. It goes on all work that they do. We line up by number, too - I say a number and that child is the leader - then they go in numerical order, with the '1' going after the last number.... '22' in my class.

Homework Calendars for 2012—2013 NOW FREE!!

Teachers and parents love this great resource! The children take a photocopied page home each month. The calendar gives them an interesting educational activity to do each day, suitable for the grade. This gives the children homework to do, but there is no preparation or marking for the busy teacher. Homework Calendars are available for K, 1, 2 and 3. E-mail Primary Success for your free copies.

Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22 each year.

Clean is Keen

Don't throw your garbage on the street
 Keep your planet clean and neat.
 Put your wrappers in the big round bin
 Recycle cans that are made of tin.
 Take your bottles back to the store
 Get a refund to buy some more.
 Never toss junk from a moving auto -
 'Cause 'Clean is Keen' should be your motto!

Sing:

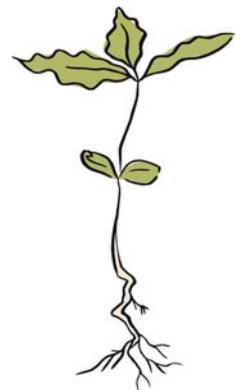
Happy Earth Day to you,
 Happy Earth Day to you,



- Tidy up your playground, your street and your neighbourhood.
- Plant a tree on the school playground. Talk about the benefits that trees give us.
- Read books with ecological lessons - The Wump World by Bill Peet, for example.
- Learn about and practice recycling in the classroom. Use both sides of paper and scraps, too.
- Go for a neighbourhood walk. Make a list of things you are happy to see and another list of things that you are not happy to see.
- Have a classroom guest - perhaps someone from the forestry about tree planting or a fisheries person to discuss salmon enhancement.
- Have used or recycled things for math manipulatives - bottle tops, buttons, sea shells, etc.
- Go on a nature walk and learn about the trees, birds, animals, plants and flowers you can see.
- Take magnifying glasses outdoors and look at insects, moss, tree bark, etc.
- Make posters about what you have learned.

Growing Seeds

"Place a paper towel inside a baggie. Run a row of staples across the bottom of the baggie about one inch from bottom. Place bean seeds inside the baggie so they are resting on the staples. Carefully pour in water and allow the paper towel to soak it up. Display the baggies in warm place and watch seeds sprout and grow. You can tape these to a sunny window. Keep them watered. The seeds will grow quickly! Carefully take the baggies apart and plant all of the plants in a very large container and add support sticks. The plants will grow, flower and grow beans all within the classroom right before the kiddies eyes. They love it!"



Or.....

"Give each child a plastic or paper cup, a piece of paper towel, a sandwich baggie and some seeds that germinate quickly. They dampen the paper towel, gently roll up the seeds in it, place them in the baggie and then into the cup. The paper towel must be damp without being too wet. The children can keep the cup on their desktops and look at them every day to note the progress. Make diagrams to show the plant embryo, the root and the stem. The kids take a lot more interest when the seeds are available to look at often."

Odds and Ends

Parent Letter

Friday Folders

Friday is a special day for our class. Every Friday the children bring their Friday Folders home. Inside these special folders you can see all of our work for the week. Important notices and the school newsletter are also placed in the Friday Folder so it is important that you check through the folder each week. A calendar will be attached inside the folder for you to record the nights you and your child have read together.

I ask that you review the work with your child and then sign one of the boxes on the front cover of the folder. Please return the folder to school on Monday. If you have any comments, please attach your notes to the outside of the folder. You may keep the completed work that is in the folder. If your child has been absent or for some reason has missed some work, it will be placed in the Friday Folder. Please have your child complete any unfinished work as soon as possible and return it to school.

Folders are collected Monday morning. The entire process is then repeated on Friday. This is a valuable tool to keep home-to-school communication open, and it helps you see what your child needs to work on. It is important that it is returned on time and not lost.

Spring Literacy and Art

"I have children choose a just right book from their book boxes (which we learned and discussed all year). Then they use a kite pattern with four sections. They label each section Characters, Setting, Problem, Solution. Then they fill out the information according to their just right book.

Then we make flowers with a large flower pattern (5 petals) with a cupcake paper attached to the center and then a strip of green construction paper for the stem and leaves. We label the parts of the flower on each part.

I hang them in the hallway with the flowers on the bottom and the kites 'flying' at the top. It makes for a beautiful display!"

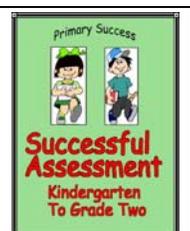


Big 5 Math

"We do Big 5 Math each morning. The children are given 5 math questions to work on as they arrive in the classroom in the morning. They work on them on their own until everyone has settled down. Then we go over the questions together, discussing how we solved it, what strategies we used. We point out when someone used a different strategy so that they learn there is more than one way to solve a problem. If they have difficulty with a skill we teach them some strategies to solve it and then make sure there are more questions like that until all are able to work with that skill. It is very none threatening, everyone helps each other to solve the questions. The children correct any mistakes so that at the end of the lesson everyone's paper is correct. We use questions that cover all of the math strands. It is a good way to introduce the skills in an informal setting so that when it comes up in the math lesson they are already familiar with the concept and are able to work with more confidence.

Successful Assessment - Kindergarten to Grade Two

There are tests and assessments for math, reading, phonics, spelling, and other subjects. This binder includes assessment check lists, screening sheets, running record sheets, writing standards, and more. There are report card comments and sample interim report cards. This is a very useful resource!



Odds and Ends

Post-It Notes

- Use sticky notes to jot down anecdotal assessment ideas as you circulate around the class, and then stick them into the children's files. Make sure these are dated, so if you don't get to copy them into your book immediately you know when the note was done.

- Use small post-it notes on the large classroom calendar to remind you of things for certain days, such as parents coming in to do a craft or project, a special assembly day, etc. Make notes of these happenings in your lesson plan book, but also posting them on the calendar will help remind you. The students also know that something special is going to happen on the days with the note attached.

- When we begin our spelling lessons I make and laminate seasonal silhouettes for each month for my spelling bulletin board, and then I print the spelling words for the week on large sticky notes. I apply these to the cutouts. This saves me time, because I don't have to make new bulletin board cut outs every week - just once a month. All you have to do each week is change the sticky notes. Also, they are quickly and easily removed before each test.

- When I write my lesson plans, instead of writing directly in my lesson plan book I write the plan on a 3 x 3 sticky note (which is the same size as the square in the lesson plan book). I place the sticky note in the square on the LP book, and when I teach that lesson, I just take the sticky note with me instead of the whole lesson plan book. The sticky note is also great when plans are changed for some reason. I just take the sticky and move it to the place in the book when I will be able to teach the lesson. My LP book looks a little funny with all of the sticky notes on it, but it works for me. Photocopy the pages after the week is finished to make a lasting record.

Birthdays

- Have students find their birthday on a calendar.

- Graph the birthdays of the class members. Which month has the most birthdays? Which season? Is there a day number that has more than one birthday?

- I do 'half birthdays' for the children who have birthdays in the summer holidays. They celebrate July birthdays on the date in January and August birthdays in February.

Popular Primary Success Resources!

Read Through the Year - Emergent Level - Kindergarten

There are more than 50 little books to photocopy for your emergent readers. These are suitable for Kindergarten and early Grade One students. Most of the books are predictable or can be read through picture cues. There are many holiday and seasonal books, alphabet and number books, books about the children's daily lives, and there are books to go with your themes, too! There is a teacher's guide and a worksheet or exercise to accompany each book. The children can all have the same book to read, and then take them home to share with the parents.

Beginning Handwriting - Grade Two / Three

Grade Two and Three students love to learn handwriting! This is something that is great to do near the end of the year. This book shows how to form the letters and has student pages for each lower and upper case letter and words to practice. Your kiddies will love it!

Successful P.E.

This primary book has lesson plans, gross motor activities, skill training, indoor and outdoor games galore - and lots of ideas to make your P.E. lessons fun and successful. There are helpful ways to organize your P.E. periods, too. There are exercises, classroom breaks and games for recess. This book is suitable for teachers from Kindergarten to Grade Three. See samples on the website.

The Successful Sight Reading Program

This series is widely used in the classroom, especially for the children who are slower to learn to read. These books give them the needed repetition and give you many strategies to help them learn. These books are also popular with Special Education teachers, as they are easy to teach and contain everything needed for success. For more information, go to the Primary Success website.

Successful Sight Reading - Part One / Part Two / Part Three / Part Four

This program is very popular and is being used with great success, both in the classroom and in Learning Assistance rooms with students who have difficulties with early reading. The Successful Sight Reading books have daily lesson plans, with lots of teaching strategies and practice sheets. It has everything you need to teach beginning reading successfully! Part One teaches the first 100 sight words so that your Grade One students soon become readers, and Part Two teaches the next 150 words. Part Three and Four continue the sequential program. It is well organized, simple to follow and the program has proven results.

Little Books to Accompany Successful Sight Reading - Part One / Part Two / Part Three

These binders each have more than 50 little books for you to photocopy for your students. These little books match the lessons in Successful Sight Reading - Part 1, 2 and 3. These will give your children the extra reading practice that they need, and the little books are fun, too!

"My children's reading has greatly improved with the Successful Sight Reading program! Thanks for this wonderful resource!" R.M.

"I am impressed with how quickly the students were able to read using the reading programs!" K.B.

"My children's reading has greatly improved with the Successful Sight Reading program! Thanks for this wonderful resource!" R.M.

"I am impressed with how quickly the students were able to read using the reading programs!" K.B.



Successful Phonics - Part 1 / Part 2

These books will give you everything you need to teach phonics successfully. Part 1 is a complete phonics program for Grade One and Part 2 is for Grade Two/Three. There are specific daily lesson plans, strategies for teaching the sounds and blending, reproducible reading sheets, flashcards, and reproducible booklets so the children can practice their skills in actual reading material. Successful Phonics is easy to teach, and is explained in simple lessons.

Go to the website for samples and book prices.

Favourite Websites

http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/wil/rimes_and_rhymes.htm#About

There are cards to print off with nursery rhymes, and rhyming word cards (word families) and lesson plans.

<http://www.carlscorner.us.com/>

This site is a gem! Bookmark it and return often. Everywhere you look you will find good stuff.....

<http://www.disciplinehelp.com/>

This is a wonderful site called "You can handle them all". It talks about misbehaviours and what actions you can take.

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