

Simple Solutions:

Teachers' Favorite Tips & Timesavers

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Gearing up for class projects, field trips, or new lesson plans? Build your registry with supplies you want and share it with parents.



Clever Classroom Routines and Easy-to-Plan Events

Morning Baskets

Keep little ones busy while you handle morning routines. **Put simple activities such as dominoes or lacing cards in small, inexpensive baskets.** As children enter the room, allow them to choose a basket. When a child finishes with one basket, he may return it and take another. While children complete the activities, you'll be free to take care of last-minute notes and answer parent questions.



Find baskets big and small at Walmart.com.

Birthday Books Worth Celebrating!

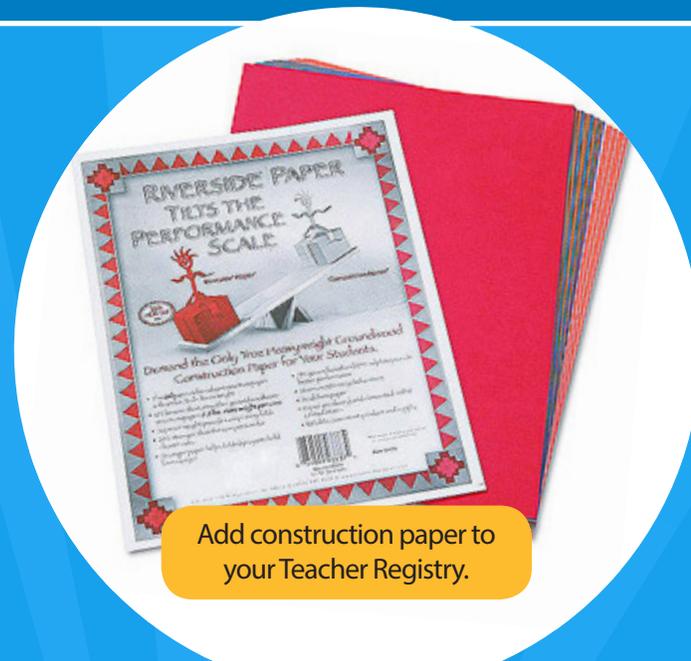
- Arthur's Birthday by Marc Brown
- A Birthday for Bear by Bonny Becker
- Clifford's Birthday Party by Normal Bridwell
- Curious George and the Birthday Surprise by Margret and H.A. Rey
- Happy Birthday, Mouse! by Laura Numeroff
- Happy Birthday to Whooo? by Doris Fisher
- Happy Birthday to You! by Dr. Seuss
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Birthday? by Jane Yolen

Birthday Book Bag

Celebrate class birthdays with a book the whole class will enjoy. **Fill a birthday gift bag with birthday-themed books.** (See the list.) On a child's big day, choose a book from the bag. Allow the birthday child to sit in a special spot while you read the book aloud to the class in her honor. If you have spare books, allow the child to keep the book. If not, return it to the bag for the next special celebration.

Job Reminder

Display your helper's name each day with help from a faithful friend. For each child, personalize a construction paper bone and punch a hole in each cutout. **Each morning, pick one child to be the helper for the day** and thread the corresponding bone cutout onto a piece of yarn. Tie the yarn around a stuffed dog's neck and display it on your desk as a reminder.



Add construction paper to your Teacher Registry.

Litter Jugs

Keep your classroom litter-free with jugs made to catch trash. **Cut off the tops of empty milk jugs or laundry detergent bottles;** then place one on each table in your classroom. Throughout the day, youngsters put paper scraps and trash in the jug on their table. At the end of the day, a helper from each table empties the jug into the classroom trash can.



Use the detergent, then repurpose the container. You'll find all of your family's favorite laundry detergents at Walmart.com.



Music boxes are pretty and practical. Students will be enchanted. Check out the inexpensive options at Walmart.com.

Music Box Cleanup

When it's time for youngsters to clean up, wind up a music box and let it play. Youngsters clean their area to the music. **When the music stops, little ones will know that their toys and materials should be put away.**

Stress-Free Transitions and Quick Time Fillers

Get Your Line in Shape

Little ones can practice shape, color, and number recognition while finding a place in line. Cut out a variety of large shapes in different colors and then number them. **Arrange the shapes in a line on the floor and adhere them with clear Con-Tact covering.** When it's time to line up, have each child find a specific shape, color, or number or choose a shape and describe it.



Add clear Con-Tact covering to your wish list. Always available at Walmart.com.

Musical Chairs With a Twist

Practice letter, number, and shape recognition in this version of Musical Chairs. **Tape an index card labeled with a letter, number, or shape to each student's chair.** Arrange the chairs in a circle. Play a warm-up round in which each student will find a chair when the music stops. The twist is that each student must name the letter, number, or shape on his or her chair. Then remove one chair and continue playing.



Never run out of index cards. Add them to your Teacher Registry today.



Magnetic letters and numbers are a preschool must-have. Get the big set at Walmart.com.

What's Missing?

Gather several classroom objects and display them on a tray. Give youngsters time to see everything on the tray. Cover the objects with a cloth and **remove an object without the youngsters seeing it.** When you show them the objects again, have youngsters guess which object is missing. For extra practice, mix in magnetic letters, magnetic numbers, or flash cards.

Time-Filler Book

Keep time fillers handy with a flip book. Write ideas on index cards and laminate them. With a hole puncher, **punch two holes at the top of each card** and bind the stack of cards with metal rings to make a book. Include some blank index cards in the book so you can add ideas later. When you have a few minutes to fill, finding a quick idea will be easy.



Hole punches don't have to just be round. Add extra fun with the star, heart, and circle set available at Walmart.com.

Easy Organizational Tips

Handy Storage Solution

Keep pencils and other supplies organized with **ice pop molds**. Use the individual sections for storing pencils, markers, pens, scissors, colored pencils, and paintbrushes.

Earn money for your school today.
Register as an affiliate, post your list on
your school's website, and earn!



Colored pencils with a twist. Kids love Crayola Twistables, available now at Walmart.com.



You'll find endless classroom uses for this handy cart, available at Walmart.com.

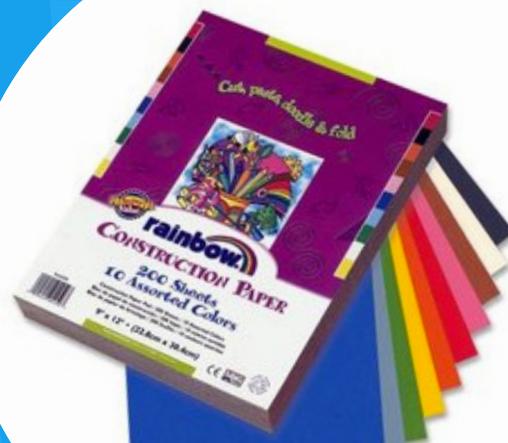
Portable Art Cart

A mobile cart helps keep everything you need for art in one place. **Store and organize all of your art supplies on the cart and roll it to work areas as needed.** Have students return their supplies to the art cart when finished, so it will always be ready for next time.

Quick Crafts

Scrap Art

If your supply of construction paper scraps is getting out of hand, have youngsters **turn the scraps into masterpieces**. Introduce the works of artists such as Pablo Picasso and Claude Monet. Give each student paper scraps, scissors, a sheet of paper, and glue. Have children use the supplies to create their own artwork inspired by the featured artist.



Get the BIG pack of construction paper. 200-sheet assorted pack available at Walmart.com.

Pointers for Positive Behavior

Pop Sticker Collections

Encourage good behavior with sticker rewards youngsters can collect each month. Personalize a library pocket for each child and mount the pockets on poster board. **Each month, glue a seasonal shape to a craft stick for each child so it looks like an ice pop.** Write a child's name on each stick and place it in the corresponding pocket on the chart. Attach stickers to a child's shape to recognize good behavior. After he earns a certain number of stickers, give him a special reward.



Stock up on colorful craft sticks at Walmart.com.

Fill your
prize box with
goodies from
Walmart.com!

An Exceptional Motivator

Promote positive behavior with seasonal flair. Cut out different-colored seasonal shapes. Throughout the day when a youngster demonstrates good behavior, **have him pick a shape and write his name on it.** At the end of the day, each child who earned a shape can trade it in for a small reward or add it to a drawing for a bigger prize at the end of the week.

Puzzle Poster

Mount an 8 ½" x 11" poster, magazine picture, or printed photo onto tagboard. Attach magnetic tape to the back of the tagboard and then place it on a magnetic whiteboard. Cut a second piece of tagboard the same size into puzzle pieces and attach magnetic tape to the back of each piece. Number each piece. Cover the poster with the puzzle pieces. During transition times, call on a youngster seated at the quietest table to **remove a puzzle piece and try to guess what's on the poster.** As the image underneath becomes clearer, youngsters will be eager to earn a guess—and you'll have a quieter classroom.



You'll find a many uses for magnetic tape in your classroom. Stock up at Walmart.com.

The Surprise Center

Each week, reward hard work and good behavior with a surprise center. Plan a cooking, art, or hands-on activity for the end of the week. **Each day, reveal items that will be needed for the activity to build up students' interest.** These surprise centers are sure to be a hit.

*Let parents pitch in.
Update your Teacher
Registry with everything
you need for Surprise
Centers.*

Smooth Sailing for Substitutes



Brighten your classroom with colorful Con-Tact covering from Walmart.com.

Theme Box

Plan ahead for a substitute teacher by creating theme boxes. **Cover a lidded box with wrapping paper or Con-Tact covering that matches a favorite classroom theme,** such as dinosaurs, outer space, or the beach. Fill it with a variety of ideas, supplies, and resources that match the theme. Include a class schedule and any other information your substitute will need. Both your sub and your students will have a learning-filled day.

Name Jar

Help a substitute teacher get off to a good start with a name jar that lets her start calling on youngsters right away. Fill a decorated jar or can with craft sticks labeled with youngsters' names. When the substitute needs class participation, she can **pull a stick from the jar and call the child whose name is on it.** By using all the sticks before replacing any, she also knows whether she has included every child.



Get the BIG box of craft sticks available at Walmart.com.

Thank-You Treat

Thank a substitute teacher for her help with a special treat from you. When you know you'll have a substitute, **write a note thanking her for her efforts and attach it to a small treat**, such as a few miniature candy bars in a plastic bag. Leave it on your lesson plans or class list to be sure she finds it.



Hershey's Miniatures make a sweet and simple thank-you. Stock up at Walmart.com.

Clear Communication



Get colorful clip-type clothespins at Walmart.com. You'll find dozens of uses in your preschool classroom.

We've Buzzed Over To...

Headed to the playground? This door display will let visitors who find the classroom empty know where to find you. Make a large bee cutout and several small flower cutouts. **Label the flower cutouts with places your group visits during the day** and attach them to the classroom door. When the class leaves the room, have a class helper use a clothespin to attach the bee to the flower that shows your new location.

Keep 'Em Posted

Use a bulletin board to keep parents posted on classroom events. Arrange the display outside your door to **list upcoming events, display photos of recent events, and provide important reminders**. Encourage parents to check the display often to stay up-to-date and see what their little ones are doing in the classroom.



Create a corkboard that's just the right size. Check out The Board Dudes corkboard roll at Walmart.com.

Tips for Teaching Hygiene in the Classroom

Keep students from spreading illness-causing germs with these tips:

Focus on simple, effective measures. Have students routinely wash their hands, cover their coughs with their arms rather than their hands, and promptly dispose of tissues. Remind them to never share cups or utensils.

Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs in a classroom. Soap and water are a must when it comes to getting rid of germs. To effectively wash away germs, teach your students to scrub in between fingers, under nails, and on both sides of their hands. They should do this for 15 to 20 seconds, the time it typically takes to hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice.

Focus your class’s handwashing routines on the key times that your students’ hands are most likely to be germ. These include after going to the bathroom; after blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing; after playing outside; after touching used tissues or other contaminated surfaces; after touching a class pet; and after touching garbage. Consider having your students wash their hands more frequently when illnesses are going around.

No soap and water available? Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol can help in some situations to decrease the number of germs on hands. Just be aware that hand sanitizers are not effective when hands are visibly dirty.

Know the kinds of clean. Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases in schools, as reinforced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹ While cleaning is important for physically removing dirt and germs from objects or surfaces in the classroom, it does not actually kill germs. Disinfecting wipes can be a practical way to target and kill illness-causing germs in the classroom. For the sake of both safety and effectiveness, always use Environmental Protection Agency–registered disinfectants, including disinfecting wipes, and be sure to use them according to the instructions on the label. Focus on wiping frequently touched surfaces in the classroom, such as door handles, sink handles, and even tables and chairs.



¹ How to Clean and Disinfect in Schools to Help Slow the Spread of Flu, <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>