



# The Kindergarten Chronicles

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## Integrating Math and Literacy

Throughout the previous seven editions, the focus of *The Kindergarten Chronicles* has been on literacy. However, integrating math concepts into your literacy block can add excitement and maximize cross curricular instruction. There is a vast number of picture books that introduce students to different math concepts.

Counting books are a natural way to begin. Each year, I spend a few weeks with my kindergarteners investigating a variety of counting books. My school library has a great selection for check-out. I begin with books that count sequentially either forwards or backwards. *Anno's Counting Book* and *Mouse Paint* are two of my favorites. There are also many retellings of *The Five Little Ducks* and *Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* to reinforce counting skills. These books are also great resources for your drama station. Just add a few props and your students can act out the stories.

*Anno's Counting Book*, a wordless picture book, lends itself to creating a big book reproduction. We follow the same format and the students work in cooperative groups at the art station to paint their pictures. Student also work together to paint the background pages containing a blue sky and white, brown, or green ground. The students then cut their painted pictures and paste them onto the background pages. This is definitely one of my students' favorite books to read.

*Mouse Paint* quickly became a pocket chart activity to reinforce counting and number

words. The students used the ideas from the pocket chart to create their own books using their fingerprints and stamp pads.

Throughout the year, we have read many different poems and songs about counting. Nursery rhymes such as *One, Two Buckle My Shoe* and other counting poems were placed at the overhead station where students circled the numbers and number words.

Not only did literature enhance my students' number sense, we used literature to enhance our understanding of time, money, addition, subtraction, patterns, and geometry. Here is a list of the books I used:

- *Around the Clock with Harriet* by Betsy Maestro
- *Alexander Who Was Rich Last Sunday* by Judith Viorst
- *A Quarter from the Tooth Fairy* by Caren Holtzman
- *Mother Goose Math* by Harriet Ziefert
- *Everyone Uses Math* by Bonnie Beers
- *How Many Feet? How Many Tails?* by Marilyn Burns
- *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins
- *One, Two, Skip a Few* by Roberta Arenson
- *Exploring Shapes* by Andrew King
- *Grandfather Tang's Story* by Ann Tompert

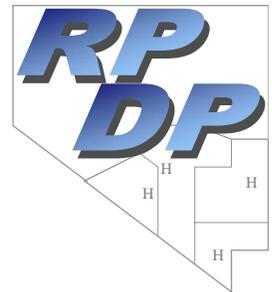
All of my students loved exploring these books, poems, and rhymes. I loved that they learned that anything can be found and experienced through good literature!

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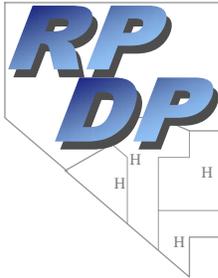
Look for next  
edition of *The  
Kindergarten  
Chronicles* in  
September  
2006.

Have a wonder-  
ful summer  
break!



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## Class Offerings for the 2006-2007 School Year

**GRIP-K** will be offered this fall. Classes will begin in September and conclude in December. If interested, please check Pathlore in mid August for specific class information and registration.

**Literacy Centers for K-1 Classrooms** will be offered on a regular basis beginning in August. Please check Pathlore next fall for specific dates, times, and locations. Registration is also done through Pathlore.

## End of the Year Tips

The number of days to the last day of school is rapidly dwindling. As it gets hotter, your students' attention spans may be getting shorter. With testing over, you may be wondering what to teach and reinforce during these final days of kindergarten. I have found these final days to be a great time for students to demonstrate all they have learned throughout the school year. Here are some simple and motivating ideas for you and your students:

- After reading a story, encourage small groups of students to create Tree Maps of the story elements. Give them a large sheet of paper (with a Tree Map already drawn), crayons, and turn them loose.
- The drama station can be changed to a miniature classroom complete with pointers, an easel, and a

small marker board. This is always a big hit! Students role play and demonstrate their knowledge with their peers.

- Spice up the writing station by having students create a page for a class book titled *What a Year*. Students can write and illustrate their favorite classroom activity or theme. This book can be shared with the new kindergarten class at the beginning of next school year.
- Each day, allow one student to choose his or her favorite big book to read. As the student tracks the print, the class reads aloud the story.
- Auction off class created big books using a lottery system. Students can earn tickets for displaying appropriate behavior. At the end of the day, one stu-

dent's ticket is drawn. That student gets to choose a book and take it home.

- Choose a theme that is exciting for all students. I let the students suggest two or three themes they would like to study. Usually space, dinosaurs, and the ocean are suggested. We take a vote to decide what we will learn about during the last two weeks of school. The students may think they have made the decision, but really the material I have for certain themes "influences" the vote.

Before you know it, the last day of school will have arrived. Whether that day arrives in June, July, or August depending on your calendar and track, enjoy these last few days. Your students will be first graders in the blink of an eye.

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