

The Kindergarten Chronicles

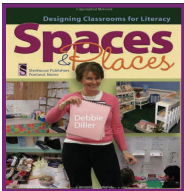
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Time for Another Year!

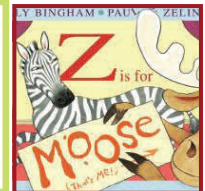
Is it just me, or do you enjoy seeing other teachers' classrooms? I look forward to seeing how my colleagues set up their classroom layouts each year. If you'd like some ideas, the book, *Spaces & Places* by Debbie Diller, is a helpful resource and contains photos of different classroom spaces. It's like taking a field trip to different classrooms from the comfort of your own desk! When visualizing my classroom layout each August, I picture the most effective student work areas, where my students feel comfortable and productive. Kindergarteners have a lot of "stuff," so I brainstorm ways to organize materials the students will need or bring to the workspaces. As a class, we discuss behavior expectations and set guidelines for the different areas of our classroom. My goal is for my students to complete their tasks, without any complications. Would you like to see my classroom? Click on the purple video link below to begin your tour. Please notice my small group area and the unobstructed view from all areas of my classroom. I want to see what each and every student is doing, at all times.

VIDEO



Reading Rocks Z is for Moose

Many kindergarten teachers read alphabet books at the beginning of the school year. The book, *Z is for Moose* by Kelly Bingham, turns the alphabet into a funny and scrambled mess. Poor Moose is too impatient to wait until the letter M to make his debut in the book. This text lends itself to a discussion on taking turns and showing patience, which are both vital in kinder classrooms! The word *patient* is one of the first vocabulary words I teach my students. Being patient is a life skill this book demonstrates in a fun and engaging way.



Family Engagement

My school has a predominately Hispanic population. Many of my students' parents speak limited English. My goal is to create a climate where all families feel welcome. Attending kindergarten is the first time many of my students will be away from home for extended periods of time. I find that setting expectations with parents for the different interactions I have with them helps build our relationship and sense of community. Letting parents know the expectations I hold for myself, as the teacher, also helps them understand that kindergarten is a partnership and the best interest of their child is shared. After all, I want their first school experience to be a positive one! The parent letters I send home are translated to ease communication between school and home. This also helps with efficiency and student/parent accountability. The video below shows how I use these forms with parents at either the Meet & Greet or at Open House.

VIDEO

Click on the links below for translated forms:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Parent Survey | Parent Survey Spanish |
| Meet & Greet Scavenger Hunt | Meet & Greet Scavenger Hunt Spanish |
| Parent Info Sheet | Parent Info Sheet Spanish |

Six Keys of Family Engagement

The Nevada Legislature passed legislation that requires all schools, administrators, and teachers to more fully engage families in their children's education. Below are the "keys" to making this happen.

- ◇ Welcoming all Families
- ◇ Communicating Effectively
- ◇ Supporting Student Success
- ◇ Speaking Up for Every Child
- ◇ Sharing Power
- ◇ Collaborating with Community



Bienvenido

Helpful Websites for Parents:

- ◇ www.doe.nv.gov - Nevada Department of Education
- ◇ www.ccsd.net/parents - Clark County School District
- ◇ www.pta.org - National Parent Teacher Association
- ◇ www.csnv.org - Community Services of Nevada



SL.K.1

If your students complete an *All About Me* book, use their ideas for collaborative conversations in the classroom **and** to build community. Model speaking in a complete sentence using the sentence stem below. With partners, students orally complete the sentence stem, "One thing I want to share about me is _____."



Southern Nevada
Regional Professional Development Program
www.rpdp.net
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Volume 10, Issue 1

September 2014