



Back to school

These easy-to-deliver activities will help to improve your children’s literacy skills whilst promoting a positive classroom environment upon returning to school.

Ten things about my friend:

1. Put your pupils in pairs. Ask them to find out the things that make their partner happy.
2. Now ask them to draw a picture of their partner.
3. Around the sides of the picture they should now write down ten things that make their partner happy.
4. This could then be developed into a fuller piece of writing, such as a poem about their friend.



One, two, three

1. Put your pupils in pairs. Ask them to count to three, over and over again, one person at a time, for a minute. For instance:

Child A: One

Child B: Two

Child A: Three

Child B: One

Child A: Two

Child B: Three

Child A: One...

They should find this seemingly simple task quite challenging. Encourage them to enjoy it when they make a mistake!

2. Pause your pupils. Now, when they say ‘one’ they can either say a character from a book or still say ‘one’. For instance:

Child A: Matilda

Child B: Two



Child A: Three

Child B: Hermione

Child A: Two

3. Pause your pupils twice more, adding in different things that you would like them to say in place of the numbers two and three. This could be favourite books, favourite words, hobbies they enjoy, emotional words – whatever you think will be fun! At all times, encourage them to try their best but also to enjoy it when they get this seemingly simple task wrong. Encourage mistakes by challenging them to do it as fast as possible!

Back to school advice:

1. Discuss with your class the sort of advice that they would give to another year group about returning to school. This could encompass both any new guidelines that your school now has as well as how to deal with some of the emotional challenges with being in school after some time at home.
2. Now ask your pupils to write down the pieces of advice that they think are most important. They could do this in the form of a letter to an imaginary pupil or as a poster. Encourage them to be creative and crafty!



One minute 'Perfect Day':

1. Put your pupils in pairs. One person in the pair must now describe their perfect day to their partner in exactly one minute with as much detail as they possibly can. Their partner must listen and is not allowed to say anything.
2. Now switch around, asking the partner who listened to now describe their perfect day. Ask them to find new partners and repeat the exercise.
3. Once everyone has done this a few times, discuss as a class how it felt to do this exercise. How did it feel to be listened to without interruption? How did it feel to listen to someone for that length of time? You could then ask them to write down their perfect day. You could create poems, short stories or drawings and then display them around the classroom.

