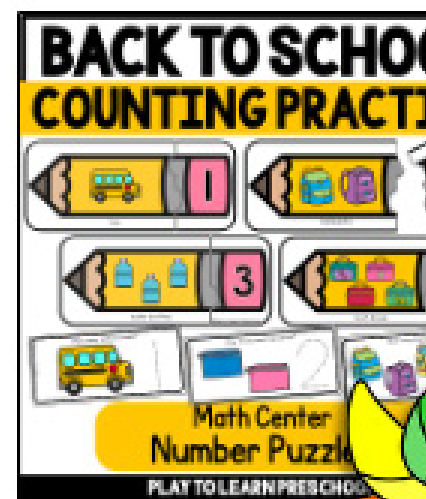
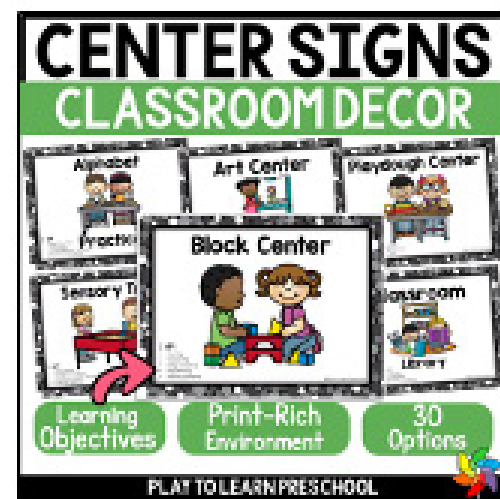
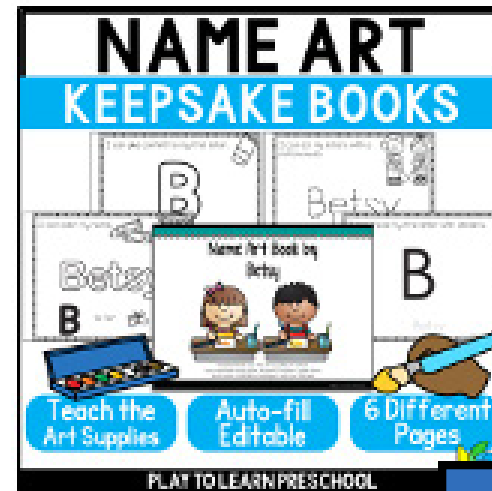
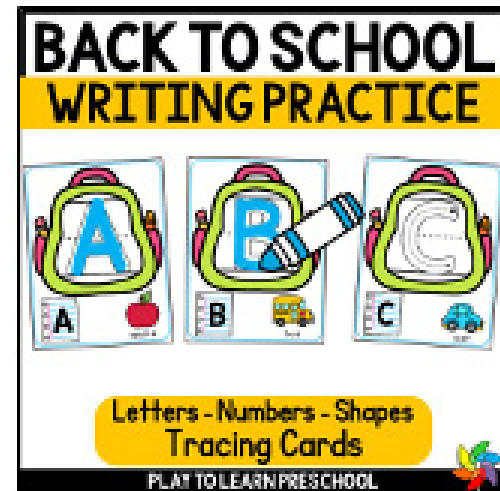
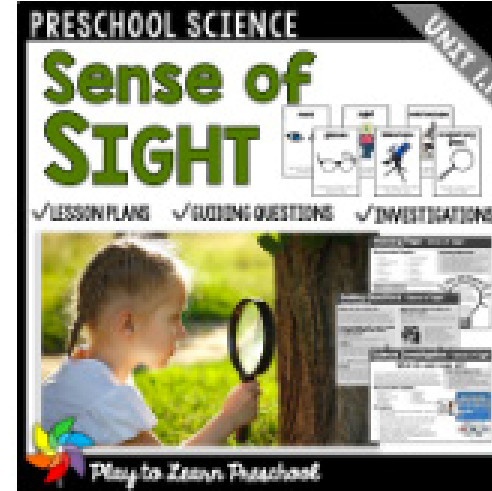
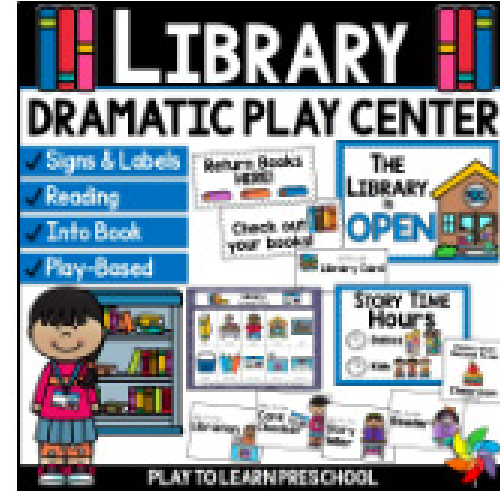
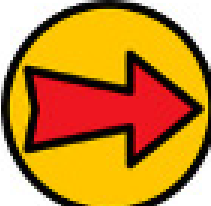


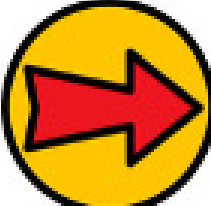
BACK TO SCHOOL

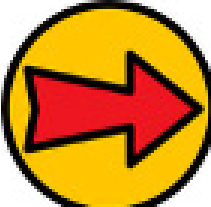
DONE-FOR-YOU THEME BUNDLE



Take the
STRESS
out of
Back to
School

 **UNIT PLANS**

 **DRAMATIC
PLAY**

 **CENTERS**

PLAY TO LEARN PRESCHOOL

Plan LESS
.....
Teach MORE



What do I really
need the first
2 weeks of school?

- Build classroom ***routines***
- Learn ***names*** through play
- Establish a ***safe space*** for children
- Introduce classroom ***expectations***
- Practice ***independence***
- Build a classroom ***community***

Everything you need for a **CONFIDENT**
start to the school year.



BACK TO SCHOOL
WEEK 1: AT A GLANCE

Day 1 Introduction

- Circle Time: song & rules cards
- Math & Literacy: classroom alphabet puzzles
- Science: What do your eyes do?
- Art: Name Coloring
- Read Aloud: *The School Book* by Todd Parr

Day 2 Big Feelings

- Circle Time: song & carpet game
- Math & Literacy: Visual Discrimination
- Science: What do your eyes do?
- Art: Name Tracing (w/ stickers)
- Read Aloud: *School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex

Day 3 Arrival

- Circle Time: poem & poll
- Math & Literacy: Writing Practice
- Science: Search & Find
- Art: Eye-Dropper Art
- Read Aloud: *Llama Llama Back to School* by Anna Dewdney

Day 4 Our Schedule

- Circle Time: poem & riddle game
- Math & Literacy: Picture Puzzles
- Science: Search & Find
- Art: Dot Names
- Read Aloud: *Maisy Goes to Preschool* by Lucy Cousins

Day 5 Whole Group

- Circle Time: chip clip poem & song
- Math & Literacy: Counting Backpacks
- Science: Rainbow Discovery Bottles
- Art: Self-Portraits part I (draw)
- Read Aloud: *Mouses First Day of School* by Lauren Thompson

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- mirror
- small stickers
- toilet paper rolls
- golf balls
- eye droppers
- plastic bottles
- magnifying glasses

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- follow classroom rules, routines, and directions
- interact positively with peers
- manage their feelings
- use their sense of sight to make observations
- identify their own name in print
- count with one-to-one correspondence

BACK TO SCHOOL
WEEK 2: AT A GLANCE

Day 6 Centers

- Circle Time: song & poll
- Math & Literacy: Writing Practice
- Science: Rainbow Discovery Bottles
- Art: Self-Portraits part 2 (paint)
- Read Aloud: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carl

Day 7 Friends

- Circle Time: song & grid game
- Math & Literacy: Shape Tracing
- Science: Rainbow Bottles
- Art: Confetti Letters
- Read Aloud: *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague

Day 8 Problem Solving

- Circle Time: action poem & sort
- Math & Literacy: Push Pin Letters
- Science: Calm Down Corner
- Art: Paper Roll Binocular Craft
- Read Aloud: *Maisy Goes to the Library* by Lucy Cousins

Day 9 Friends

- Circle Time: name match & class count
- Math & Literacy: Counting School Supplies
- Science: binoculars on the playground
- Art: Name Painting
- Read Aloud: *The Color Monster Goes to School* by Anna Ulenas

Day 10 Classroom Jobs

- Circle Time: song & action dice game
- Math & Literacy: Counting Backpacks
- Science: Take-home reader
- Art: Golf Ball Art
- Read Aloud: *Hurry, Little Tortoise, Time for School!* by Carrie Finison

Seamlessly
create meaningful
learning experiences
from Day 1!

The Bundle Companion has
everything organized and
planned...all in one place!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Families,
We are having so much fun learning about our classroom, our friends, and our school routines! During our Back-to-School unit, we practiced important early learning skills through hands-on activities, games, art, books, and play.

We Learned About:

- Classroom routines and expectations
- Taking care of books and materials
- Using our sense of sight to observe the world around us
- Recognizing and writing our names
- Counting and matching quantities
- Identifying letters, numbers, and shapes

Coming Home with Your Child:

- A take-home reader:
All About the Sense of Sight
Ask your child to "read" it to you and discuss.

Back to School ASSESSMENT Checklist

NAME _____ DATE _____ OBSERVER _____

1- Unit, 2- Dramatic Play, 3- Science, 4- Name Activity, 5- Counting Games, 6- Writing Practice

Social-Emotional Learning & Dramatic Play

- ☐ Separates from caregiver with minimal support
- ☐ Follows classroom rules and routines
- ☐ Follows simple oral directions
- ☐ Transitions between activities with minimal support
- ☐ Participates in group activities
- ☐ Interacts positively with peers
- ☐ Takes turns and shares with others
- ☐ Recognizes and expresses feelings appropriately
- ☐ Seeks help from a teacher when needed

Literacy: Name Recognition

- ☐ Identifies own name in print

Math: Counting, Numerals, & Math Tools

- ☐ Counts with one-to-one correspondence

Science: Sense of Sight

- ☐ Uses 5-senses to make observations

Fine Motor & Writing Development

- ☐ Holds pencil or dry-erase marker with a functional grip

Classroom Readiness

- ☐ Uses classroom materials appropriately

Notes:

©Play to Learn Preschool

BACK TO SCHOOL

SENSORY TABLE - Color Sorting

Sensory tables are a classroom favorite because they combine hands-on exploration with fine motor practice. A few simple materials can create an engaging activity that children will enjoy at the beginning of the year.

Mini-Poms
Fill the sensory table with colorful pom-poms. Add bottles, muffin tins, bowls, or other sorting containers to encourage sorting by color.

Rainbow Chickpeas
Dyed chickpeas create a colorful sensory experience. Add scoops, tongs, small counters, and matching containers for hands-on fun.

Scaffolding & Adaptation
Reduce the number of colors by using only primary color blocks and neutral pom-poms. Fewer color choices help children experience early success while practicing color recognition and sorting.

DRAMATIC PLAY Set Up Tips

Many preschoolers are excited to explore the different areas of their classroom at the beginning of the school year. Create a library dramatic play center where children can browse books, check out materials, and pretend to be librarians.

Backdrop
Use a vinyl bookshelf backdrop and add book bins, labels, and signs to create an inviting library atmosphere.

Librarian Station
Set up a check-out desk with an old laptop, library cards, pencils, and a basket for returned books.

Reading Area
Create a cozy reading nook with pillows, stuffed animals, bean bags, or a small rug.

Science Center

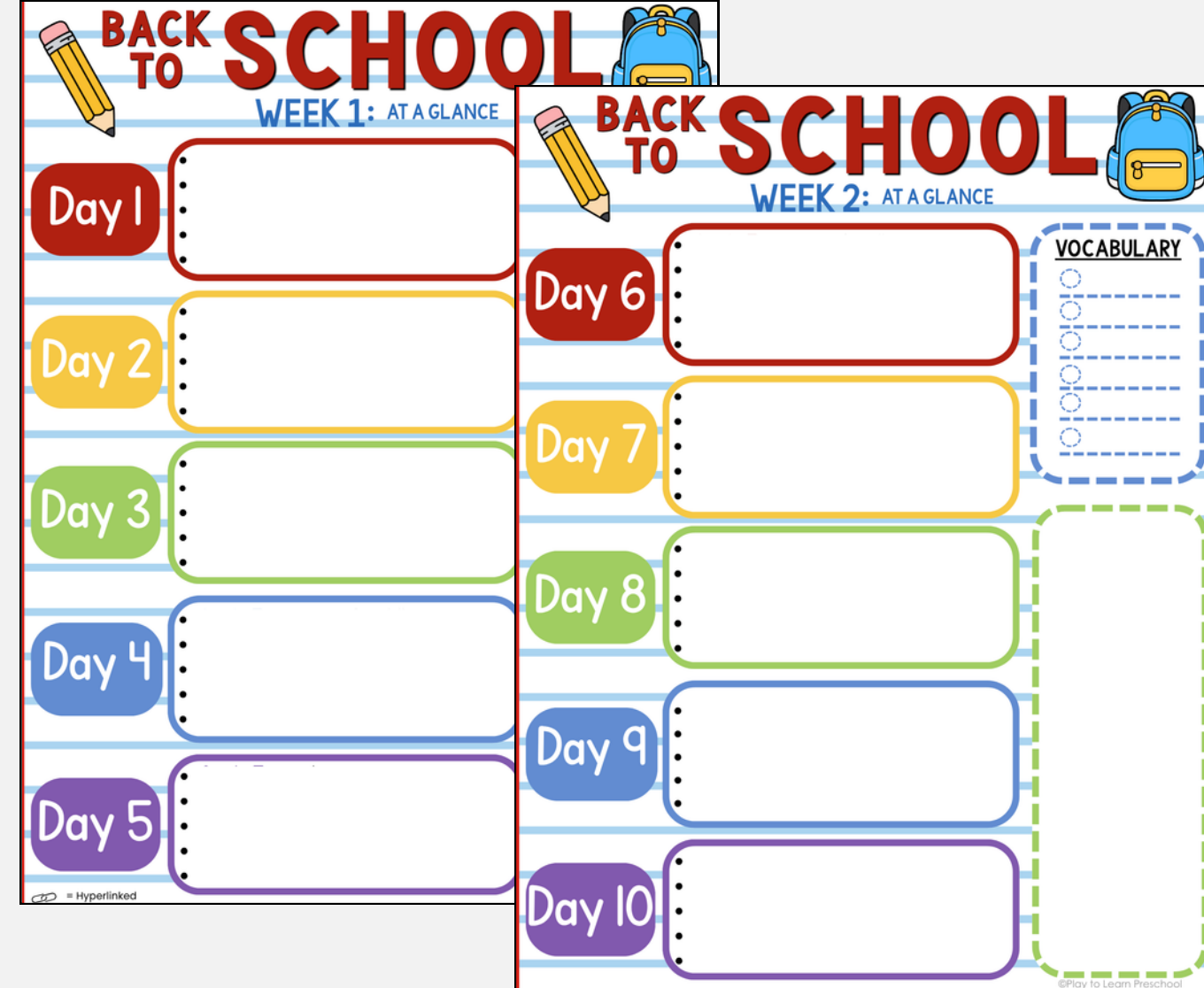
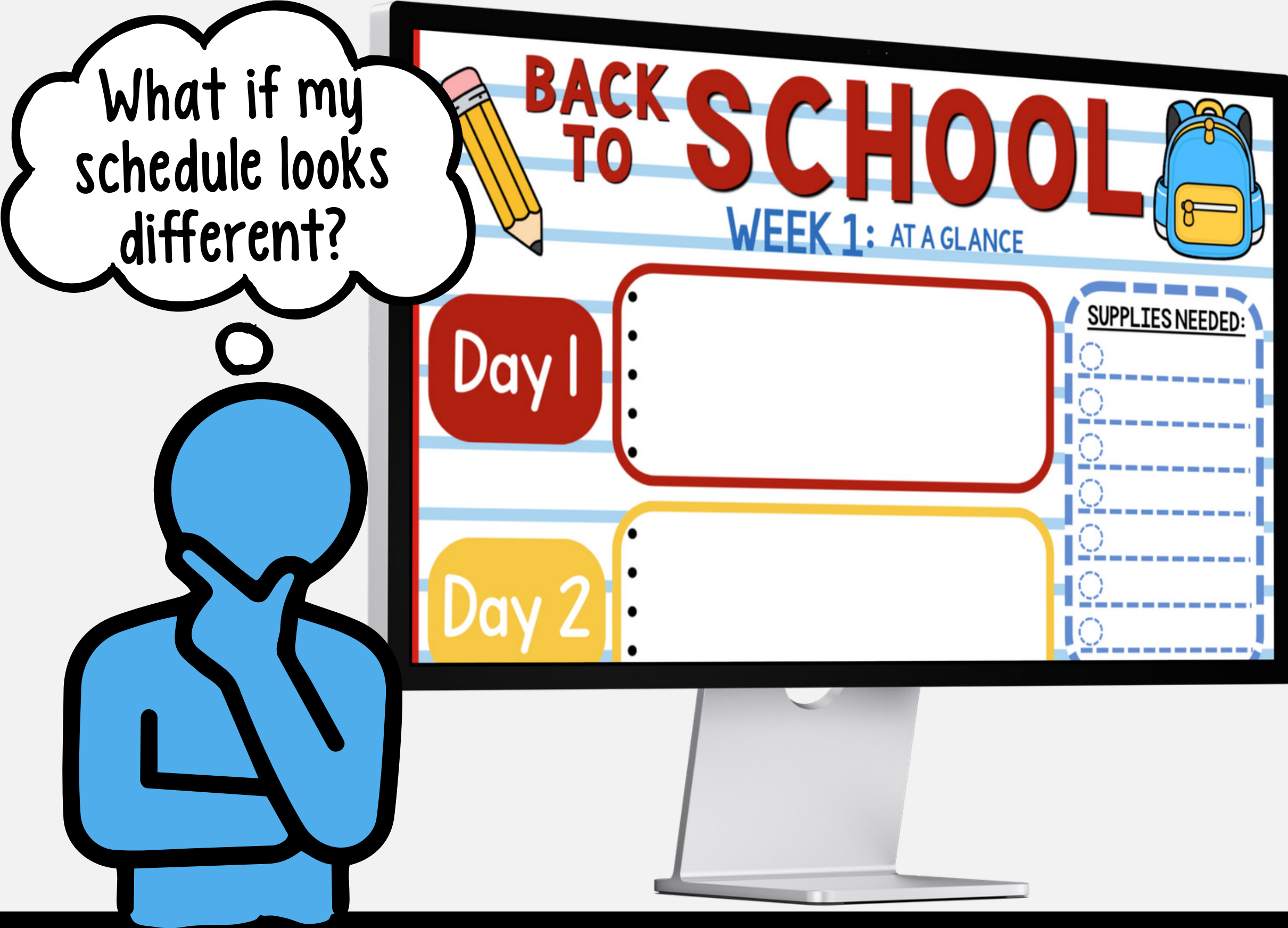
Look at Your Eyes
Students use a mirror to look at their eyes, then place their name on a pocket chart to show their eye color.

Search & Find
Search-and-find activities strengthen observation skills and encourage children to look closely.

Sensory-Friendly Exploration
Place props at the science center to explore. Examples include: magnifying glasses, kaleidoscopes, glasses, telescopes, & goggles.

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• Whole Group • Small Group • Independent Practice • Dramatic Play
• Classroom Management • SEL Support



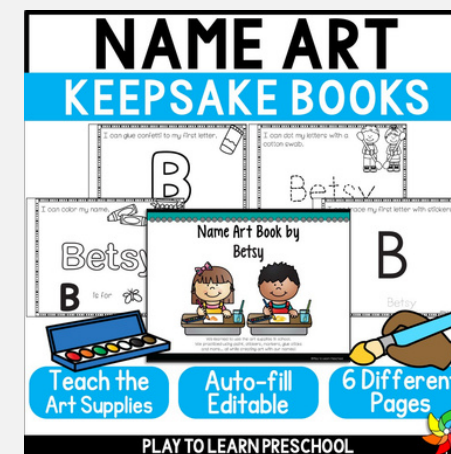
- Teaching only 4 days?
- Half-day preschool?
- Rearrange activities anytime.

The **editable** planning template makes it easy to fit **YOUR** needs.

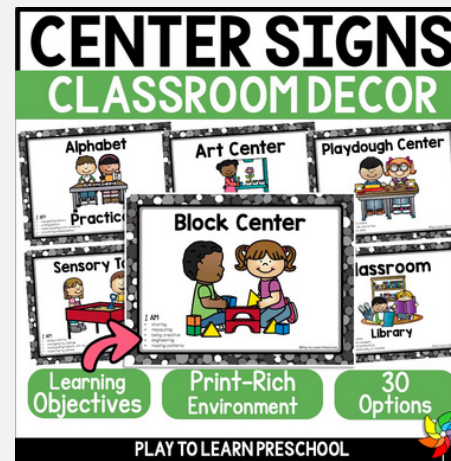
Will these still
be useful later
in the year?



Revisit classroom
routines &
expectations.



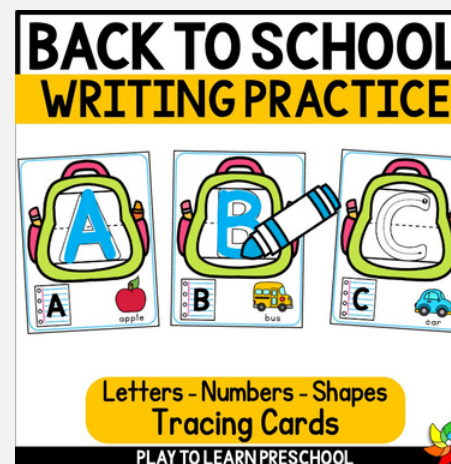
Perfect for
literacy centers
year-round.



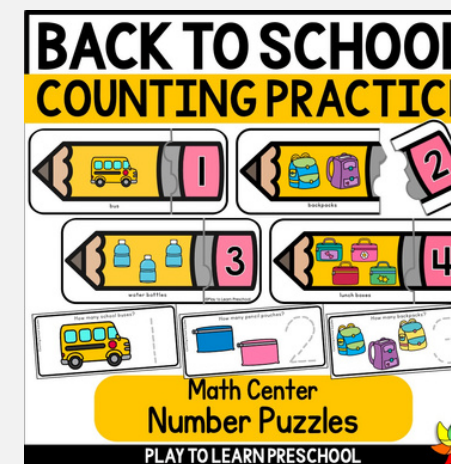
Display all
year!



A fun dramatic
play for any time
of the year.



Great for
independent practice
throughout the year.



Add to the math
center anytime.

Absolutely! Every resource can be
used independently at any time.

Are they REALLY learning if they're playing?

➤ Activities are **intentionally planned** to support early learning standards.

➤ **Home-School communication** and **assessment checklists** help families understand what is happening in the classroom.

➤ Every lesson includes clear, developmentally appropriate **learning objectives**.

Introduction

Welcome to Preschool!

Day 1
lesson
plans

Preschool is full of new people, new places, and new rules. When children understand what is expected of them, they feel confident and ready to be part of the classroom community.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will follow classroom rules.

Activities:

1. Show real life photos to the students. Discuss as a class.
2. Sing the song, "Ready for Preschool." Repeat with different movements for each verse. Picture cards are included, if desired.
3. Print the classroom rules pictures on cardstock, cut out on solid lines, and fold on dotted lines. Read each sentence to the class, and show both sides of the card. As a class, determine what is the right thing to do in preschool.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **school**. With a hand facing up in front of you, quickly bring the other hand down as if clapping twice.



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- Taking care of books and materials
- Using our sense of sight to observe the world around us
- Recognizing and writing our names
- Counting and matching quantities
- Identifying letters, numbers, and shapes

Coming Home with Your Child:

- A take-home reader: *All About the Sense of Sight*
Ask your child to "read" it to you and

Try These at Home:

- Write your child's name on a piece of trace it, build it with small objects, or with crayons, stickers, or markers.
- Look for letters, numbers, and shapes neighborhood, or grocery store. Challenge the first letter in their name.
- Reading together for just 10-15 minutes! Encourage your child turn pages, point and talk about what they see.



LIBRARY

Play & Learn at Home

Why we play this way:

When children participate in library dramatic play, they learn how books are organized, shared, and read for. As they check out and return books, they build responsibility and early literacy skills. This pretend play also encourages careful book handling and meaningful conversations about stories.

Continue playing at home:

Pretend Library Play: Set up a small shelf or basket of books at home. Let your child be the librarian and help family members "check out" books.
Story Time Leader: Encourage your child to choose a book and read the pictures to you or retell the story in their own words.
Book Care Practice: Talk about how to handle books gently, but with confidence.

Back to School ASSESSMENT Checklist

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Notes:

Literacy: Name Recognition

- ☐ Identifies own name in print⁴

Math: Counting, Numerals, & Math Tools

- ☐ Counts with one-to-one correspondence⁵

Science: Sense of Sight

- ☐ Uses 5-senses to make observations³

Fine Motor & Writing Development

- ☐ Holds pencil or dry-erase marker with a functional grip^{4,5}

Classroom Readiness

- ☐ Uses classroom materials appropriately

Name Art Book by Erin



We learned to use the art supplies in school. We practiced using paint, stickers, markers, glue sticks and more... all while creating art with our names!

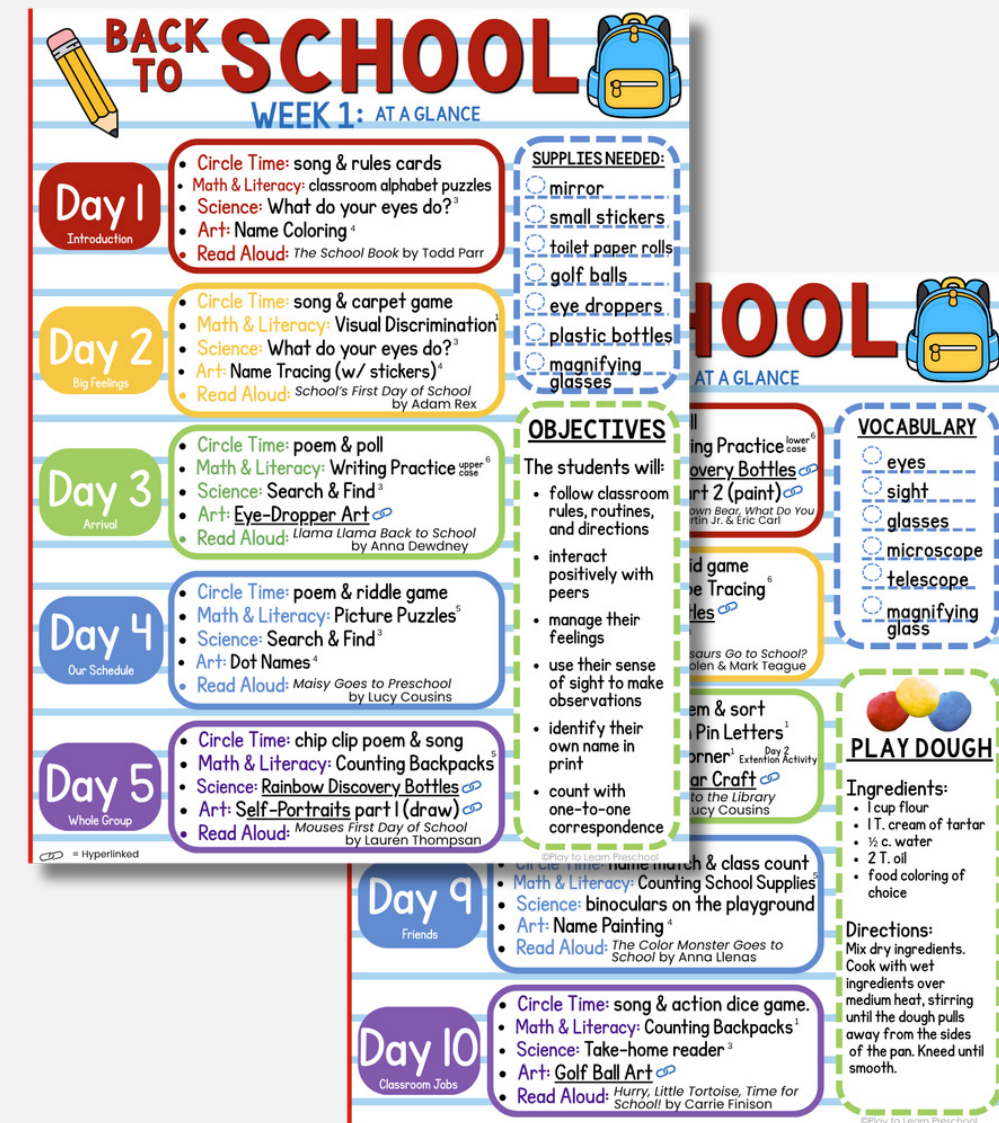
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Yes!!! Playing is learning!

When am I supposed to plan all of this?

You don't have to!

- Ready-to-use lesson plans
- Resources that work together
- Organized materials lists
- Editable planning templates



We've done the planning.
You enjoy the teaching.

HAVE FUN PLAYING AND LEARNING WITH YOUR STUDENTS!

Meet Jamie

Jamie is the founder and C.E.O of Play to Learn Preschool. She has her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in reading education. She has taught in both public and private schools and works tirelessly to create meaningful and delightful preschool experiences for her preschool students.



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