



Come Swim in Our School

Reel youngsters in with this invitation to join your school! Duplicate the open newsletter on page 9. Then program the page with the information most appropriate for your beginning-of-the-year activities. For example, provide the details of your open house or orientation. Or write a letter to each child welcoming him to your class. When mailing the information to each family, include a picture of yourself dressed in tropical beach clothing (floral shirt, sandals, sunglasses, and a straw hat) and seated in a lounge chair or playing in a sandbox. No doubt you'll create a wave of excitement!



Mrs. Carp's Sea Stars

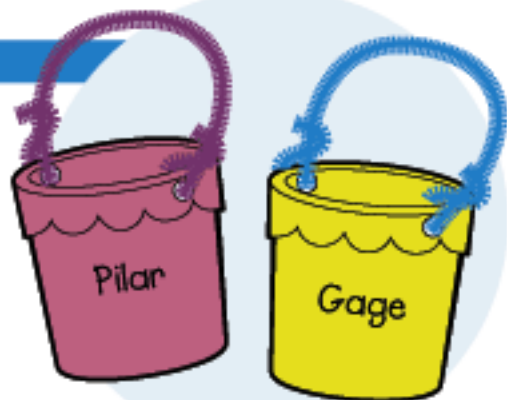


Presenting Sea Stars

The catch of the day (or opening night) will be the excited children who see their names on this door display. To prepare your door, cover it with blue bulletin board paper. Add a scalloped piece of paper to the top of your door frame. Mount a title such as "[Your name]'s Sea Stars." Copy the starfish pattern on page 10 onto pink, orange, and yellow construction paper to make a class supply. Personalize the starfish; then temporarily affix them to your door. When the children arrive (either on opening night or your first day), invite each child to find his starfish and then decorate it by gluing on colored sand. When you return the stars to the door, you'll have a display that'll catch everyone's attention.

Bucket Brigade

Prepare these nametags for your little ones to wear on the first days of school. Make a class supply on construction paper of the bucket on page 9. Laminate the buckets; then cut them out. Punch a hole on each side of each bucket. Twist the ends of a pipe cleaner half through the holes of each bucket to form a handle. Finally, write a different child's name on each bucket. Hang the buckets on your class coat hooks. When the children come to your room for the first time, help them locate their nametags. To make it easier for each child to find his tag again, have him choose from a selection of ocean-themed stickers to add to his bucket. Then safety-pin the handle of each child's bucket onto his clothing.





A Note From Mission Control

Introduce yourself to your new students and their families with a note sent to their homes before school begins. Make one copy of the open newsletter on page 11; then write a short letter introducing yourself and giving information about the year ahead. Make a class supply of your letter. Send a letter to each child in your class, with a sprinkle of star-shaped confetti in the envelope. If desired, use this idea in conjunction with "Nifty Introductions" below for a fun way for students to introduce themselves to you.



Nifty Introductions

Looking for a way to get to know your little ones? Duplicate and cut out the rocket pattern on page 13 for each child. If desired, send home the pattern and a copy of the note on page 12 before school begins. Or complete the projects on the first day of school. Working with one child at a time, read aloud the unfinished sentences on the rocket and ask her to complete them. Later, share each child's responses during a group time so that your youngsters can begin to learn about one another.

