



## Starting School by Jane Godwin

Theme: New Experiences (Jan 2014)

To a young child, starting school is an exciting but sometimes daunting experience. Starting School gently describes this first experience by introducing different aspects of the school day, such as 'packing up', 'making new friends', and 'snack time'. Beautifully illustrated by Anna Walker, 'Starting School' is the ideal book to familiarise a child with this new and exciting experience.



### Key Message for Parents-

#### Children's Self Control Is Critical For Learning, Responsibility and Relationships

- Story time is a perfect activity for teaching and reinforcing self control
- Self control should be modeled by parents who should set a good example for children
- Self-control is learnt over time through experience and understanding of what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Outcome Four: Children are Confidant and Involved Learners

Educators can promote this learning by:

- Ensuring that children have a range of age appropriate activities or experiences, which promote exploration and learning
- Celebrating and sharing all achievements, big and small.

### Welcome

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

#### Sing - Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

*Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.*

#### Good Morning

Good morning to you  
Good morning to you  
Good morning everybody  
And welcome to you!



## Song

### **This is the way we walk to school (to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)**

This is the way we walk to school, walk to school, walk to school  
This is the way we walk to school on a cold and frosty morning

This is the way we pack our bags, pack our bags, pack our bags...etc  
This is the way we eat our fruit  
This is the way we do our work..

What else might you do at school- Discuss with children and include their ideas in the song! Don't forget to ask the children to stand up so they can use lots of actions!

## Introduce The Book

Explain to the children that it is time to listen, so hands in laps, mouths closed, eyes this way... just like at school!

What can we see on the cover of the book? 5 children! What are they wearing? Are these play clothes? No! They are wearing school uniforms because these children are starting school! Do you know any children who go to school? Will you be going to school soon? Let's open the book and visit school with these 5 children!

## During Reading

Anna Walker's illustrations are full of wonderful detail perfect for further exploration and discussion. When reading take time to look at carefully at each double spread! Prompt your listeners by asking open-ended questions such as "What do you think these children are doing?" Each double spread describes a different aspect of school life and is written from a child's perspective, often describing their thoughts and feelings. You might like to ask the listeners how they might feel or what they might do in the same situation.

## After Reading

Reflect on the school day: what different things did they do at school? You might like to put some pictures on the white board or try acting some of these ideas out, ie putting your hand up, reading, writing, playing, and eating.

Ask the children what they think they might like to do at school! Share ideas and feelings about starting school. If you have an old school photo you might like to share it with the children, explain that you also used to go to school!



## Activity Time

### Make Your Own School Back-pack!

Use the template provided to make a mini school back-pack from a paper bag

What you need:

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons/pencils
- Paper Bags
- Strips of pre-cut coloured paper for handles
- Pictures of various items a child may want to pack ie-apple, pencils, book etc ( there is also a template provided)



How to -

- Print templates and cut out bag handles and label
- Attach to bag with sticky tape or glue
- Use template of school items to pack bag
- If you have stickers and crayons the children could decorate their mini school bag





## Extension ideas

- What's missing? Place 5 objects you might use at school (such as a pencil, a piece of paper, an apple, a lunch box, a book) on a tray. Cover the objects with a cloth, then without the children seeing remove one object. Can they guess which object is missing?
- Make a nametag for the school bag using some colourful card and stickers. This could be laminated and attached to the school bag.
- Make a "Getting ready for school chart", which lists the important things to do – ie brush your teeth, hair, pack bag, get dressed etc.

## Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area.

- The Wrong Book by Nick Bland
- Reading makes you feel good by Todd Parr
- Starting School by Janet and Allen Ahlberg

## Goodbye Song

*This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)*

*Say goodbye, say goodbye*

*This is the way we say goodbye*

*To all our library friends (or :) to our friend.....)*

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the last line rather than 'library friends' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Nametag for School bag

This school bag belongs to:

Cut out and paste to front of the paper bag. Children may like to decorate with stickers, crayon etc