

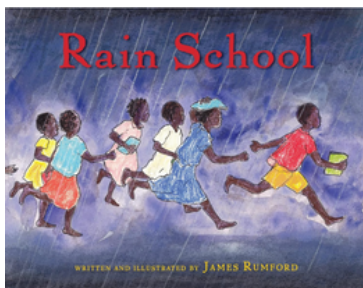
THE PRESCHOOL CONNECTION

WEST OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



It's Back to School Time

Children are going back to school all over the world. Why not help children know of other ways children learn? Here are books to help with that learning.

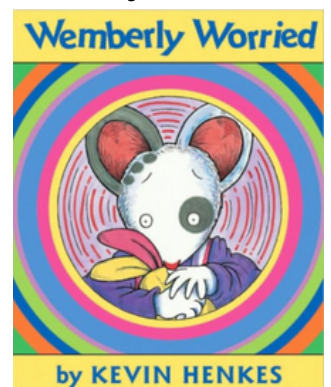


It is the first day of school in Chad and Thomas is one of the eager young student following the older brothers and sisters down the dusty road to school. But when they arrive at the schoolyard there is no class room; there are no desks, only a teacher who says, "Our first lesson will be to build the school." So Thomas learns to make mud bricks, to build mud desks and mud walls, to gather grass for a roof and soon a cool classroom

is ready. When the nine months of learning are over, the rainy season comes and the mud classroom and desks are washed away; the learning – the letters, the words, the geography – remains. The next year Thomas and the others will return to build the school and learn again. On the final page there is a map locating Chad (French pronunciation) in central Africa with population and land area information.

Here is a marvelous opportunity to broaden our knowledge of the world God loves and God's children who are our neighbors. As Christians we read with joy about the questing minds that God gives all children and this attempt to nurture learning. Think about Luke 2:52. Jesus went to a synagogue school. How do you think he felt on his first day of school?

Wemberly worries about absolutely everything.....from shrinking in bathtub water to losing her parents in the middle of the night. Although her parents and laid-back grandmother try to convince her that there is nothing she needs to worry about, she is not convinced. Just when you think she could not possibly worry about one more thing, she faces her biggest fear ever.....the first day of school.



Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25-27: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" This book and a discussion about its message would benefit children about to enter kindergarten, or even older children who may appreciate a lighthearted book about entering a new phase of life.

Prayer Ideas

Back To School Count Your Blessings

One of the best ways to start off your new school year is by being thankful for how God got you through the previous one and the summer!!

Activity: Have something available on the table for kids to build a tower with, and for each block added you say something that you are thankful for.

Use this prayer of thanksgiving: ‘Dear Lord, We thank you for the many blessings you have given us over the past year. We appreciate that you provide us with all that we need. Amen’

Try using some of these items for stackers: Legos, Mini Jenga type blocks, flat stones, plastic bottle caps, or going with a school theme, use flat erasers!



Community Prayer

All that is needed for this prayer station is a place to write prayers and something to write them with. Invite families to write their joys and challenges so that the community may join them in prayer.



A Prayer for Teachers and Staff

Dear Lord,

I lift up our teachers and ask Father that as classrooms fill up with new students this year, that you will enable and guide each and every teacher and staff member of the school. Help them to teach and care for our children with love, honor, and respect. Fill their hearts with your love and their minds with your wisdom and give them the strength and patience to be the best teacher they can be.

I ask Lord that you would cover the school with your protective hand and send each student, teacher, and staff member home safely each day.

Thank you for those that instruct our children for they are a blessing.

I pray this is Jesus' most precious name – Amen.

Mix glitter with a small dab of lotion to help it stick to children's hands then rub it all over their hands. After hands are sufficiently covered in germs head to the sink to try to wash them off. Children will be really surprised how long it takes to actually get all of the glitter off.

Hopefully this will help them understand the importance of time when washing hands.



Resource



ABCs to ACTs believes that we learn through play, creativity, and exploration, regardless of age. Great printables! Some free, some not so free.

<https://fromabcstoacts.com/?>

Back to School Science Experiment

If you have ideas that would be helpful for other preschool staff members or are looking for more resources on a specific topic, please email us and we will include your ideas in future editions of The Preschool Connection.

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