

Time to start school! No doubt your little ones are excited ... and probably you are, too! Remember, you have 36 weeks to get everything done ... so don't burn yourself out early on by trying to do too much at the beginning of the year. It's better to start off slow and then add in extra activities and assignments as you get into a routine.

If you are following a traditional school year calendar, the back-to-school sales are on now. (Usually late July and August in the US.) Make up a list for each of your children of items that you know they will need this year and take them shopping. Perhaps each child could get a special binder/organizer or a pencil box to keep their own pencils, a pencil sharpener, crayons, and other supplies in one place.

Celebrate the first day of school by printing out a sign for each child with his or her name and the date and "First Day of Kindergarten" (or "School"), and then take a picture of each one holding his sign. Talk about milestones and the importance of keeping records of special life events.



Teaching Moments and Hands-On Activities

- For printable activities and coloring sheets to go along with this week's stories in *Egermeier's Bible Story Book* see Lessons 1-16 at <http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/curriculum.htm>.
- A template for making felt board figures to illustrate the story of creation from the Bible is available at www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/mfelt-creation.htm. Several craft ideas to go along with the story of Noah's Ark may be found at www.dltk-bible.com/arks.htm.
- Make a shoebox diorama to illustrate *The Boxcar Children*. Visit www.gardenofpraise.com/bcdio.htm to see photos of dioramas made by other children. For a simpler activity, have your child draw a map of the site where the children lived.
- Just for fun have a "birthday cake" one day this week to go along with the "Birthdays" poem in *The Llama Who Had No Pajama*.
- *The Arnold Lobel Book of Mother Goose* online activities:
 - "Old Mother Goose" rebus rhyme - www.enchantedlearning.com/rhymes/mothergoose.shtml
 - "Old Mother Goose" coloring sheet - www.niteowl.org/kids/goose.html
 - "The Ten O'Clock Scholar" rebus rhyme - www.enchantedlearning.com/rhymes/Diller.shtml
 - "Mary's Canary" rebus rhyme - www.enchantedlearning.com/rhymes/MarysCanary.shtml
 - "She Sells Sea Shells" rebus rhyme - www.enchantedlearning.com/rhymes/SheSells.shtml