

# Classroom Calendar Kit User's Guide

## Classroom Calendar Kit

### Preparing the Classroom Calendar

To prepare the Classroom Calendar Kit for use, find the blue grid. The grid has two holes for hanging and can be tacked directly to a bulletin board, suspended from a hook or nail at a suitable height with a string through the holes, or laid flat on a table or desk. Peel the backing off the black hook pieces one at a time and stick three pieces across the center-top of the large space for the month, two across the space for the year, and one near the center of each of the other spaces on the grid.

Next, follow a similar procedure to put the white loop pieces on the back of the yellow months, years, and days, and the white numbers and symbols. If the hook-and-loop material has been properly aligned, these pieces should stick to the grid when they are turned over and placed on it. You will note that the top-right corner has been cut off of most calendar pieces for easy orientation.

By putting the labels, numbers, and symbols in different places on the grid, you can use the Classroom Calendar again and again to show any month of the year. After putting on the month, year, and names of the days of the week, young children may add a new number each day until the month is complete. Older students may put all the numbers on the calendar at the beginning of the month and then use the calendar as a reference throughout the month.

For most months, only five rows of numbers will be required on the grid. However, about two times a year, the month will have 31 days and begin on a Friday or 30 or 31 days and begin on a Saturday, so the sixth row on the grid will be needed. If children find this extra row confusing on months when it is not needed, put a strip of tape or paper over it or decorate it with extra symbols not being used that month.

### Using Symbols With the Classroom Calendar

Symbols may be used to point out special days and add interest to the Classroom Calendar. Symbols may be substituted for numbers whenever it seems appropriate. Here are the basic calendar symbols included in this kit:

<b>Symbol (Number)</b>	<b>Possible Use</b>
birthday cake (4)	birthdays
cloud (3)	cloudy days
cross (2)	Good Friday and other Christian holidays or church activities
Easter egg (1)	Easter
flag (2)	Flag Day or American holidays
happy face (4)	birthdays, field trips, special events, or happy days
heart (1)	Valentine's Day
jack-o'-lantern (1)	Halloween
kite (3)	windy days
maple leaf (2)	1 <sup>st</sup> day of fall or Canadian holidays
pine tree (1)	Christmas or Arbor Day
shamrock (1)	St. Patrick's Day
snowman (3)	snowy days, cold days, 1 <sup>st</sup> day of winter
Star of David (2)	Jewish holidays
sun (3)	sunny days, hot days, 1 <sup>st</sup> day of summer
tulip (1)	1 <sup>st</sup> day of spring
turkey (1)	Thanksgiving Day
umbrella (3)	rainy days

Although this basic set of high-contrast, tactually discriminable symbols has been provided for use with the Classroom Calendar Kit, several blank cards have also been included to encourage teachers and children to create their own symbols. Since experiences with real objects should generally precede the use of symbols and since real objects are often easier to identify tactually and maybe even visually, teachers should consider using real objects for symbols.

An example of using a real object is attaching an actual birthday candle to a blank card to represent a birthday. Other items that might be used are a leaf for fall, a flower for spring, a pine twig or candy cane for Christmas, a clover for St. Patrick's Day, etc. Braille and print names and labels can also be added to the symbols to personalize the calendar. If necessary, dark construction paper may be used to provide a background with contrast for the low-vision child.

Before using a symbol, it is important for the teacher to help children build a rich sensory background of experiences for using it. If the teacher wishes, for example, to use the birthday symbol, they might...

1. Have birthday candles for the children to examine.
2. Let the children put birthday candles on a cake.
3. Light the candles for the children to see and guide the children in feeling the heat from the candles.

4. Have the children take turns blowing out the candles while the rest sing “Happy Birthday.”
5. Have the children smell the smoke from the blown-out candles.
6. Let the children eat the birthday cake, of course!

A similar procedure can be followed for introducing other symbols, including small three-dimensional models and raised-line drawings. This can be done for the other symbols in the kit or any you create.

## Educational Objectives

### Objectives Requiring a Calendar

- To become familiar with the calendar as a tool for measuring time
- To learn how many days are in a week, a month, and a year; how many weeks are in a month; and how many months are in a year
- To locate month, days, and numbers on a calendar
- To use the calendar to answer questions such as:
  - How many Wednesdays are in this month?
  - What day of the week is the 10th?
- To use the calendar to plan for future events and remember past events

### Objectives That Can Be Reinforced Using a Calendar

#### Reading-Readiness Objectives

- To identify rows
- To track from left to right
- To move from top to bottom
- To track left to right and back and drop down to find the next row
- To relate print or braille on a calendar to numbers and words
- To associate beginning sounds with letters
- To recognize words and letters

#### Social Studies Objectives

- To build an awareness of upcoming holidays, birthdays, and other special events
- To develop an awareness of current events
- To celebrate past events

#### Science Objectives

- To record weather observations
- To learn about the seasons and their characteristics

- To learn about natural phenomena upon which the calendar is based—phases of the moon (months), the earth’s rotation (day and night), and revolutions of the earth around the sun (years)

### Arithmetic Objectives

- To develop one-to-one correspondence
- To count from 1 to 31
- To recognize numerals 1–31
- To sequence numbers
- To use ordinal numbers 1<sup>st</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>
- To develop awareness of time
- To recognize multiples of seven, beginning with the numerals 1–7
- To calculate from a known date to another date by adding or subtracting

### Language Objectives

- To name the days of the week
- To sequence the days of the week in order
- To identify the months of the year
- To use the date in a complete sentence
- To describe a day and things associated with it in sentences
- To identify weekdays versus weekend days
- To use the terms yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- To listen as others share their descriptions
- To state what the calendar tells

### Activity Suggestions

Children can...

- Put the date on the calendar, with guidance in tracking and identification as appropriate. (Very young children who find this difficult might prepare for it by building a calendar one week at a time using strips cut from grids in the Individual Calendar Kit.)
- Sequence numbers for the week.
- Count the days on the calendar and add today’s number.
- Locate and identify the letters in the name of the month, etc.
- Spell the name of the month, etc.
- Recite the days of the week.
- Match the numbers on the Individual Calendar with the numbers on the Classroom Calendar and the letters for the days with the names of the days.
- Learn the correct abbreviations as well as the full spellings for the days of the week.
- Identify the number of the year.

- Repeat after the teacher, in unison and then individually, "Today is Monday, May 17, 2021."
- Give a complete sentence of their own, describing the date.
- Name yesterday and tomorrow as well as today.
- Answer more complex questions requiring use of the calendar.
- Use ordinal numbers correctly. For example, if yesterday was the 1st, what is today?
- Use the calendar to help plan activities.
- Discuss regularly scheduled activities and upcoming events.
- Put symbols for holidays, birthdays, and vacations on the calendar and/or make a list of special dates on separate paper.
- Make a chain to represent the number of days until the next vacation, count the links, and remove one each day until the big day arrives.
- Describe the weather each day and use appropriate symbols to indicate it.
- Discuss outdoor activities and appropriate dress for the weather.
- Compare the weather today with the weather yesterday and/or the prediction for tomorrow.
- Discuss news heard on the radio or TV each day.
- Receive recognition for good behavior or outstanding achievement by having a sticker or star put on the calendar each day or by naming a student of the day, week, or month.
- Compare this monthly calendar to a yearly braille or print calendar.
- Find the beginning letter of the day and talk about other words that begin with the same sound.