

Teacher Checklist for the Implementation of the Family Math Kits

TWO WEEKS BEFORE FIRST KIT GOES HOME

TEACHER PREP

- Review the Family Math Kit Calendar and note key dates.
- Reach out to your Family Math coordinator if you have any questions about the Math Kits, including questions about this Checklist or the Calendar.
- Label the crate where you will keep the Math Journals and find a location for it in your classroom.
- Consider (as a school/site) making a flyer or handout to advertise the Math Kits to families.

IN THE CLASSROOM

- Before the first Kit goes home, introduce the Math Buddy (bear) to students and explain its role: *“Today you’re going to meet someone special... Each one of you is going to get a Math Buddy... What name do you want to give your teddy bear? My Buddy’s name is ____.”*
- Have each student name their Math Buddy and put a name tag.
- Keep the Math Buddy in the classroom for a week. Once a day, let children play with it for a few minutes, so that they develop a relationship with their Buddy. For example, you can incorporate the Buddy in classroom activities, such as singing, circle time, etc. Tell students that when the time comes to take their Buddy home, they will get to play math games with their Buddy.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

- Let families know about the project. Here are some key ideas to communicate:
 - It’s an exciting project that will send free materials to use at home, including a math bear for your child to keep.
 - It will reinforce the math learning we do in the classroom and help your child get ready for kindergarten.
 - Five kits will come home over a period of 3-4 months.
- We recommend three touch points with families about the Math Kits before the first Kit goes home. If you are using a flyer, give it out at along with these other communication strategies:
 - If you have a parent-teacher meeting scheduled, make sure to mention the Math Kits at the meeting.
 - At pick up or drop off, have team members mention the project to families and answer questions.
 - You can send group messages through platforms like Learning Genie to remind families of the project.

WEEK BEFORE *EACH* OF THE MATH KITS GOES HOME

TEACHER PREP

- Review the Family Math Kit Calendar and note key dates for the upcoming Kit. Reach out to the Family Math coordinator if you have any questions about the upcoming Kit or the Preview Activity.
- Review the document: Family Math Kits Overview for Teachers.
- Read or listen to the one-page DREME articles/s to refresh/reinforce your knowledge about how to teach the topic of the upcoming math kit:
 - **Shapes & More Kit:** **Shapes** [Read](#) OR [Listen](#); **Space & Place** [Read](#) OR [Listen](#)
 - **Measurement Kit:** [Read](#) OR [Listen](#)
 - **Sorting & Data Kit:** [Read](#) OR [Listen](#)
 - **Patterns Kit:** [Read](#) OR [Listen](#)
 - **Counting Kit:** [Read](#) OR [Listen](#)
- Gather all the materials to PREVIEW THE KIT ACTIVITY with your students (see below). Previewing the activity in the classroom will help students become familiar with it before trying it at home.
 - **Shapes & More Kit:** Turtle Tangram Puzzle
 - **Measurement Kit:** Practice ordering the pipe cleaners by length. Walk students through the steps to make the rainbow.
 - **Sorting & Data Kit:** Have students sort objects (e.g., legos, pattern blocks, toy dinosaurs) in the classroom by shape/color/etc. and count how many of each category there are.
 - **Patterns Kit:** Invent patterns with blocks and ask students to extend them. (e.g., AAB-AAB-AAB).
 - **Counting Kit:** Have students play the two card games included in the Counting Kit: [Count Jack is the Highest](#) and [Line Them Up](#)

IN THE CLASSROOM

- Find 15-20 minutes to do the Preview Activity so students become familiar with the directions and math concepts before bringing the Kits home.
- A day or two before the upcoming Kit goes home, show the kids the contents of the Kit and the activities included. Remember, children take their Math Buddy home with the first Kit (and then it stays at home). Tell them: “You’re taking your Buddy home with this Kit and you two will get to do fun math games together!”

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

- Group text or message to families to alert them that children are bringing home a Math Kit. You can say:

[TOPIC NAME] Kit is coming home on [DATE]. It Includes [NAME OF ACTIVITY] and math journal. You can keep everything but the Math Journal—please send it back on [DATE]. Reach out if you have any questions about the directions of any activity.

WHILE FAMILIES ARE WORKING ON ANY GIVEN KIT

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

- Group text or message a reminder text one week into the kit and ask for photos of the activities from families.

Hope you are enjoying the Kit! I would love to see photos of activities you've done, or feedback on the Kit. Remember that the Math Journal is due back next week—here are my own answers to the journal questions [picture of teacher's completed Math Journal]

- Support families who are having trouble with the Kits or not completing Kit activities.
- Reach out if parents have any additional questions.

COLLECTING AND USING JOURNALS FOR EACH MATH KIT

- File returned Journals under each student's name in your crate.
- Send a message to any families who did not return the Journal.
- The week after the Journals for each math kit come back, lift up family responses using the ideas provided in the video accompanying the Kit and also coming up with your own ideas.
 - Shapes & More video: <https://bit.ly/4aVxl1d>
 - Measurement video: <https://bit.ly/3yVTmFm>
 - Sorting & Data video: <https://bit.ly/4aVTckR>
 - Patterns video: <https://bit.ly/4bQ0Vfc>
 - Counting video: <https://bit.ly/3Kvzr2u>
- After you receive back the Journals from the last Kit, compile all the Journals for each child into a binder and return them to families as a keepsake.