



## SHARING MEET & GREET LESSON PLAN

**Woof! Woof!:** The focus of this lesson is to welcome children into a new learning environment through reading and age-appropriate activities that help relieve the anxiety of beginning school (or a new after school program) in a new place and with new friends.

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### **Teach: Walk About!**

**Objective:** The following activity nurtures essential:

- social and emotional skills
- pre-reading skills

Start the session by having a “camp meeting.” Hand each child a *Clifford the Big Red Dog* book. Model how to properly handle and turn pages. Give children time to share thoughts on illustrations and characters.

Gather up books and focus attention on listening to a reading of *Clifford's First School Day (Clifford the Small Red Puppy)* by Norman Bridwell (Scholastic).

Review the events of Clifford's first day of school. Encourage children to make connections with their own perceptions and feelings about coming to school. Ask children if school seems like a scary place, a safe place, or a place like they've never seen before. Take notice of what they are most curious about in the classroom and encourage discussion. Then take a “walk-about” tour. Locate and identify important places in your school or after school center: library, cafeteria, playground, drink fountain, and restroom. Walk through daily classroom routines including dismissal, safety rules regarding running, and after-school transportation. Have a special treat to end the “walk-about” tour to celebrate each child's arrival into a world of exciting learning and new friends.

### **Practice: First Assignment... Have Fun!**

**Objective:** The following activity nurtures essential:

- cognitive thinking skills
- fine motor skills
- social and emotional skills
- sharing and cooperation

Relieve the stress that some children enter school with by using these fun activities to break the ice. Remind children to share materials as they participate:

**Make Play Clay:** 3 cups of water and flour. Add 1T. baby oil or vegetable oil, 3T. cream of tartar, 1 \_ C. salt, food coloring (optional). Store in baggies. Can be refrigerated.

**Stars in a Bottle:** Fill plastic soda bottles with glitter, water, food color (optional). Hot glue bottle top for children. Great to use during quiet time for relaxing.

**Buckets of Colors:** Ask children to help by filling small buckets with crayons or chalk for centers and sidewalk play.

### **Extend & Share (School to Home Connection)**

When we learn about ourselves, we also learn to appreciate how special others are! Have children share information about themselves with their classmates.

- Working in small groups, have children find examples of families in books and magazines. Cut out, organize, and glue to create a "family collage." Next, have children bring photocopies of family pictures from home to make their own family collage. Display in a classroom gallery and discuss how each family is unique in its own way.
- Ask parents or caretakers to write a short paragraph describing their child. Take turns reading these aloud. Have children guess what child is being described.