

# Classroom Hot Topics

## Blue Room-August

### Environment

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**Large Group-** Begin 10-minute circle time and learn classroom and playground rules: Children will be introduced to the format and routine of circle time and brainstorm rules to keep us safe and happy in the classroom and on the playground.

**Blocks-** Learn classmates' names: Children will build using blocks with the students' names and pictures on them.

**Art-** Make collage art/friendship quilt: Each child will uniquely decorate a page that will connect together to form a classroom art quilt.

**Manipulatives-** Identify school materials: Children will complete puzzles depicting various school materials.

**Dramatic Play-** Learn classroom rules: We will practice returning our classroom materials to their proper place by observing labels and pictures of each area.

**Sensory-** Fine motor pinching: Children will grasp buttons from sand to place into cups and will use tongs to sort items into ice cube trays.

**Writing-** Scribble on paper with writing materials: Children will use various writing materials to make their own creations. We will learn proper care of these items by replacing marker lids and returning materials to their proper place in the writing center.

**Science-** Observe plant life: We will observe and care for small plants using magnifying glasses and eyedroppers for watering. Books and posters will be available showing the parts of plants and their care.

**Library/Listening-** Practice appreciative listening skills: Children will listen to instructions on how to use our listening center and enjoy a book on tape about friendship.

### Parent Education

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Welcome and Welcome back to all our families! The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time that can also bring nervous anticipation to everyone involved. Here are the links for two excellent articles from PBS Parents to help you get back into the swing of things and to deal with the inevitable anxiety.

The First Days of School <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/starting-school/first-days/>

Helping Preschoolers Cope with Separation Anxiety <http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2015/09/helping-preschoolers-cope-separation-anxiety/>

### Monthly Events

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Aug. 17 Parent Orientation Night 5:30-7:00 PM

Aug. 20 Blessing of the Backpacks and Classroom Visits 10:30-12:30

Aug. 21 First Day of School