

Preschool-Elementary Morning Meeting

Starter Kit

For early childhood & special education



Student Name	5	4	3	2	1
Seth	take deep breath ask for break				
Chris			take a walk		
Hissy Jordan				exercise deep breath	
MIKE					none



Autism
Classroom
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Preschool-Elementary Morning Meeting Starter Kit

This kit for preschool and elementary morning meetings provides the structure you need for running group activities with opportunities for communication, choice making, calendar skills, counting, identifying names and/or pictures, and meaningful participation. In addition it contains the visuals needed to have a schedule for the routine of morning meeting so that the students can anticipate events and know if there are changes.

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Calendar Materials

Calendar months are included with decorations for events related to that month. I included 2 versions of October and December to accommodate schools in which holiday materials are not allowed.



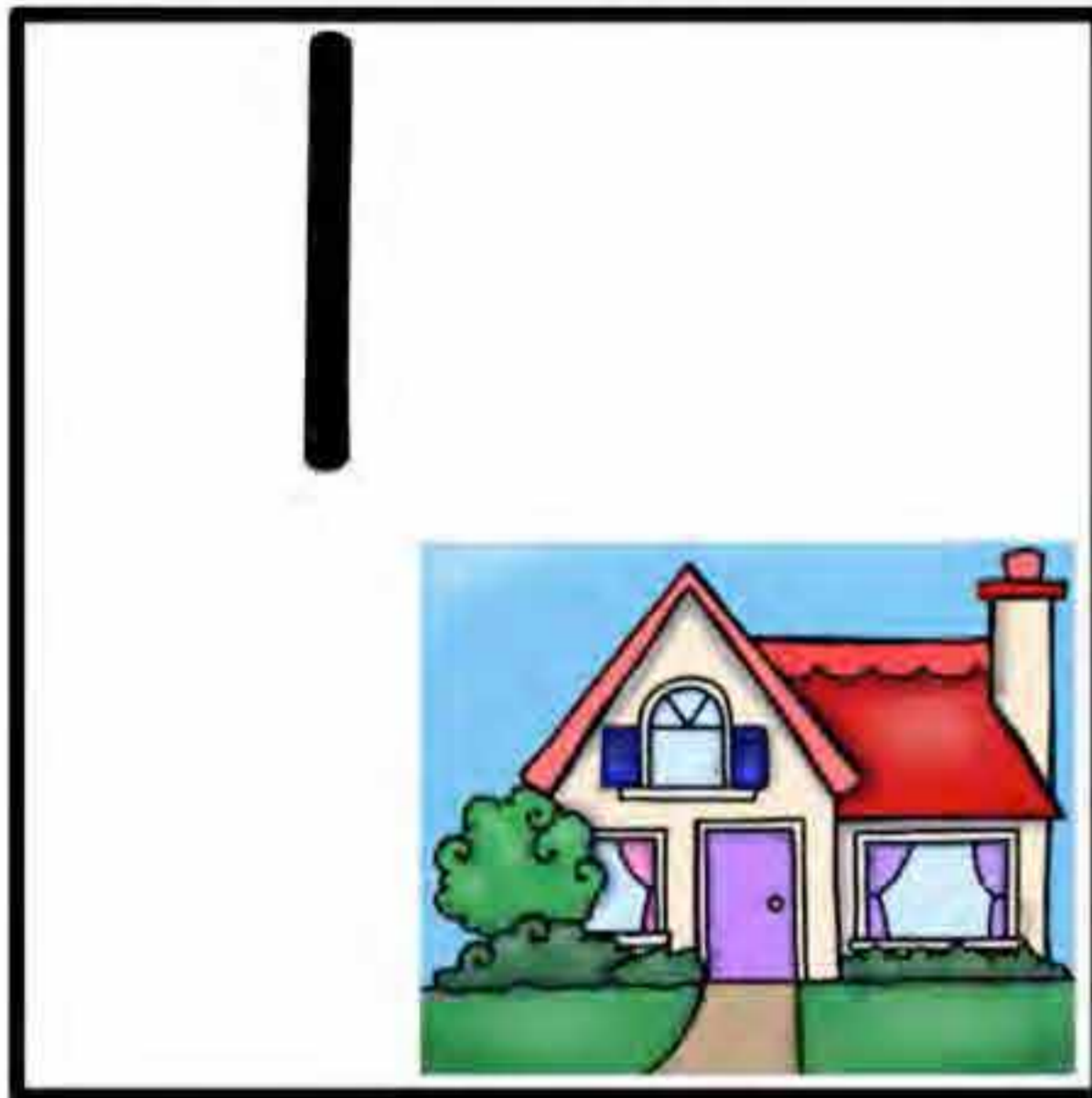
Yesterday, Today,
Tomorrow is included.



The calendar above is not the same as the one contained within, but gives you a sense of the school/home option. The present one has numbers on the cards as well.

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Numbers / Home / School Cards



With many young classes and with students in special education classrooms, I have often used home and school as the relevant information that is needed for understanding the calendar. However, I recognize that in those same classes, and for older classes, some or all of the students are also working on number concepts. So, I combined the two. I have created home and school visuals with all the numbers on them so that you can work on both sets of skills simultaneously.

In addition, I have included colored calendar cards so that you can incorporate patterning into the calendar time with the other skills. You can print the color cards if you have the printer ink. If not, use colored card stock or paper in the printer and print the ones with the white background and they will print as colored sets. With 3 colors (and the original) you should be able to create patterns up to ABCD combinations.



What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Holiday Cards

I created holiday cards that don't have numbers on them since you usually can't predict what day the holidays will fall on. If you are using a pocket chart you could put these cards over the daily cards.

Holidays Included

- Labor Day
- Memorial Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Halloween
- Thanksgiving
- Columbus Day
- Rosh Hashanah
- Passover
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas
- Ramadan
- President's Day
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- New Years Eve
- New Years Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter
- Hanukkah
- Fourth of July
- Veterans Day (2 choices)
- Valentines Day
- Groundhog Day
- Earth Day
- April Fool's Day

Other Special Days:

- Photo Day
- Field Trip (2)
- Field Day
- Special Olympics
- Happy Birthday (2)
- Homecoming



If you have holidays I have left out, email me at drchrisreeve@gmail.com and I will see if I can add them.

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Calendar Construction

I created the calendar numbers to be 2 ½ inch by 2 ½ inches which is standard for many or most standard school store calendars. For that situation, you would add Velcro to the back of them. You could also use them with a pocket chart in which case Velcro would not be needed.

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

I created *yesterday was* ____, *today* and *tomorrow* strips for students to select the day of the week so they can choose which day falls in each category.



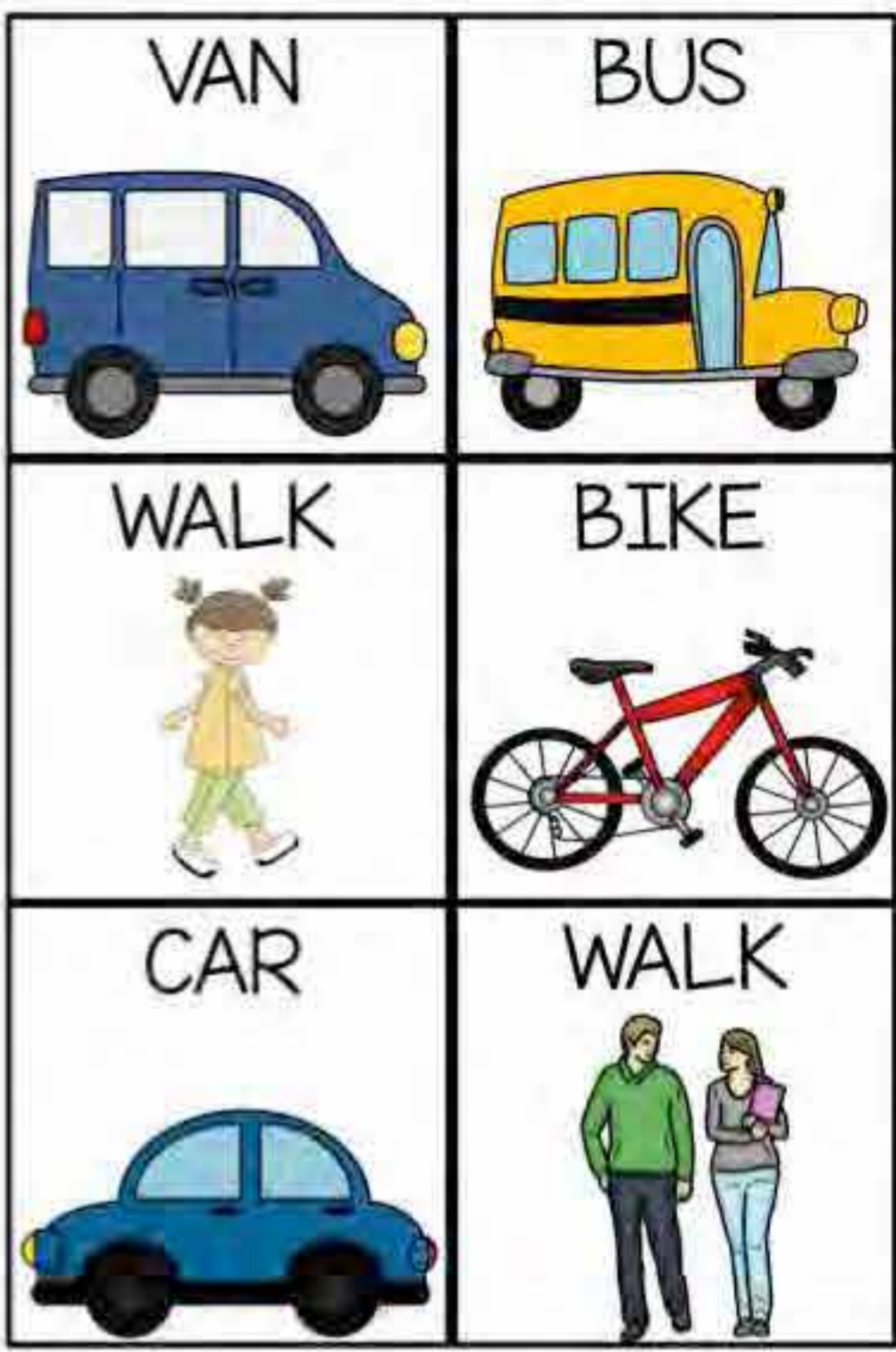
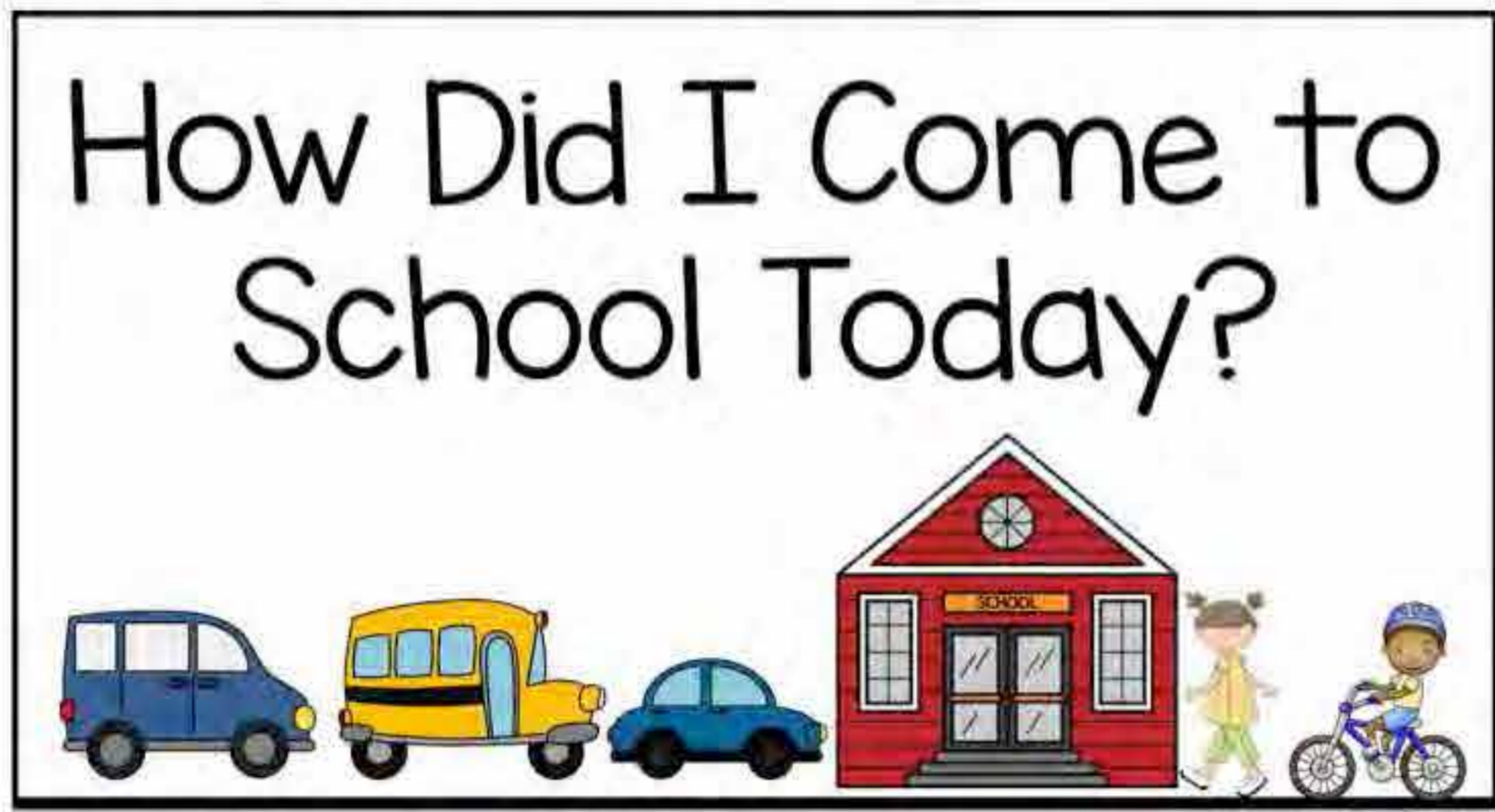
I also created the days of the week in different formats from plain black and white text for students who are easily distracted (you could also print these on different colored paper if you wanted, but you would have to print separate copies of each page with multiple days) and colored versions (if you have the color ink). You can also use these to cue students to put the days of the week in the right order.

Friday

Friday

Friday

What's Included and How Do I Use it?



How I Came to School

For younger children and those with severe disabilities, understanding how to communicate the vehicle they used for transportation is an important skill. It also ties into the skill of telling someone what happened to them.

You can also do a graphing or counting activity with these cards to talk about how many people came on the bus, how many in cars, how many walked, etc.

I included full pages of the same cards because I've found that most of the students in the class often come in one form of transportation (sometimes car, sometimes bus, rarely bike), so this way you can print extra visuals of the cards you need without having to print all of them again. However, I would make sure that you have all the options available for each student when he or she makes a choice so you have reasonable distractors.

You can put the header (included in 2 sizes) on the top of form board or a cutting board for students to place their visuals or you can have the students put their choices by their name on the Who's Here board.

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Boys & Girls

Identifying their own gender is also a developmental skill for many of our students. A student can choose whether he/she is a girl or a boy—or you could have him identify whether a peer is a girl or a boy. This can also be a good counting and/or graphing activity when you have all the cards chosen.



Morning Meeting Schedule

I have included pictures for setting up a schedule of the morning routine for each of the activities included in the kit. This helps the students know what is going to happen and what else will be completed before the activity is over. You can use them to put them vertically on the board and take the visuals off as you complete activity or to make one that looks like the one below (with different pictures).



<p>Exercise</p>	<p>Weather</p>
<p>Jobs</p>	<p>How Do I Feel Today?</p>

<p>Calendar</p>	<p>Day of the Week</p> <p>Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday</p>
<p>Who's Here?</p>	<p>How Did I Come to School?</p>
<p>Story</p>	<p>Songs</p>

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Who is Here

This can be set up three different ways. I have given visuals (other than your students' names or pictures) for all the options. One can be that you take pictures of the students or use their names and they find their picture / or name and move it on the board from the home column to the school column.

A second way would be to have the students put a home or school card with his or her picture to sign in. To do this I included a page of each.

A third way is to have the students sign in by writing or tracing their name and then choosing school to put beside their name.



What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Communication / Choice Boards

There are communication / choice boards for songs, books, and exercises. These are boards you can set up for the students to choose which songs to sing, which story to read and either they can choose the exercises or you can set up a schedule. I created single pages with headings at the top. You can use them as 8 ½ x 11 inch pages, print them larger and glue them together or I also included just headings in case you wanted to use foam boards or cutting boards but wanted to add the title to them in a colorful way.















Title on cutting boards with some of the choices for songs

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Story & Song Choices Included

<p>Humpty Dumpty</p> 	<p>5 Little Pumpkins</p> 	<p>Jack & Jill</p> 
<p>Little Red Hen</p> 	<p>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly</p> 	<p>Little Red Riding Hood</p> 
<p>Little Miss Muffet</p> 	<p>The Mitten</p> 	<p>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</p> 
<p>Goodnight Moon</p> 	<p>3 Little Pigs</p> 	<p>Goldilocks & The 3 Bears</p> 



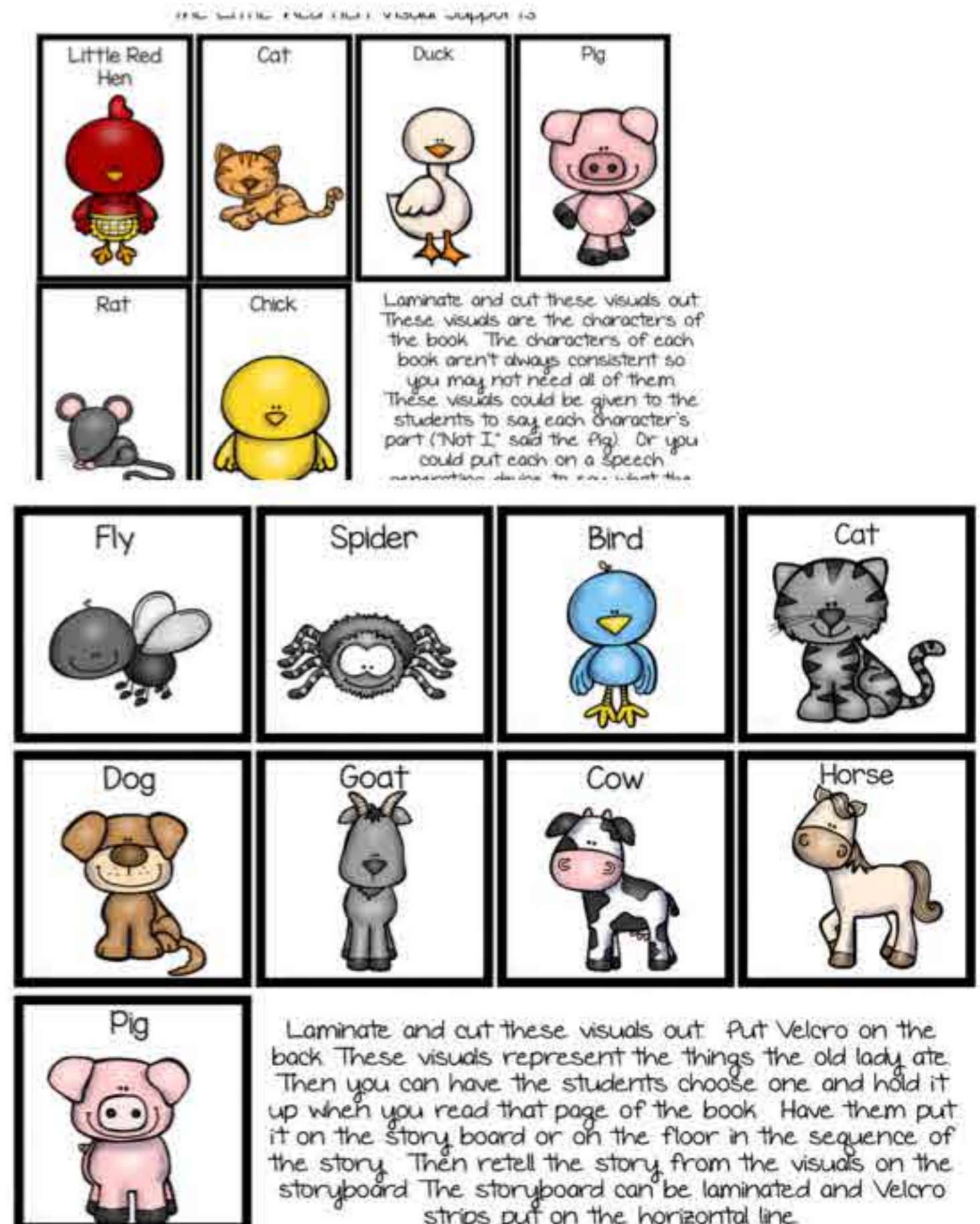
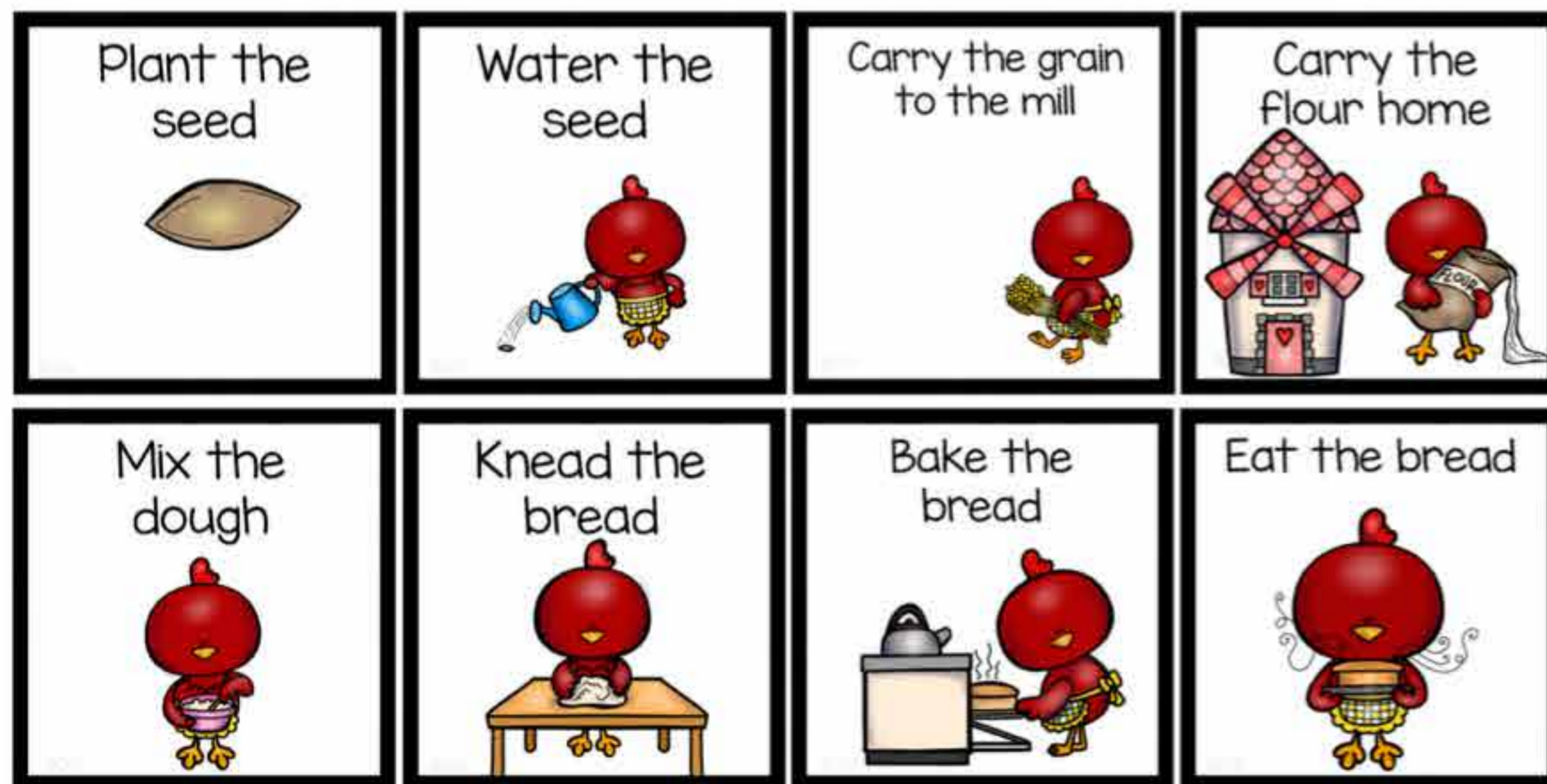
<p>5 Little Monkeys</p> 	<p>BINGO</p> 	<p>Baa Baa Black Sheep</p> 
<p>5 Little Ducks</p> 	<p>Hickory Dickory Dock</p> 	<p>Itsy Bitsy Spider</p> 
<p>Mary Had a Little Lamb</p> 	<p>Wheels on the Bus</p> 	<p>5 Little Frogs</p> 
<p>If You're Happy</p> 	<p>Old McDonald</p> 	<p>Good Morning Song</p> 

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Story Supports

I created some initial story supports for students to sequence the events of the story. They are also visuals you can give to the students as you read the story. I usually have them each select a character, event or picture and when we get to the page that talks about that picture, they raise their hand and put it on a large board in sequences. Then we review the sequence of events at the end. For preschool classes and classes with students with significant delays, I will usually read a book multiple times during the week, focusing on a different element of literacy each day—the title and author, the sequence, the events themselves, predicting once they are familiar with the story, etc.

Included are *The Little Red Hen* and *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*. You will need to have the books or get them from the library to use the visuals but I chose these because they are pretty common.

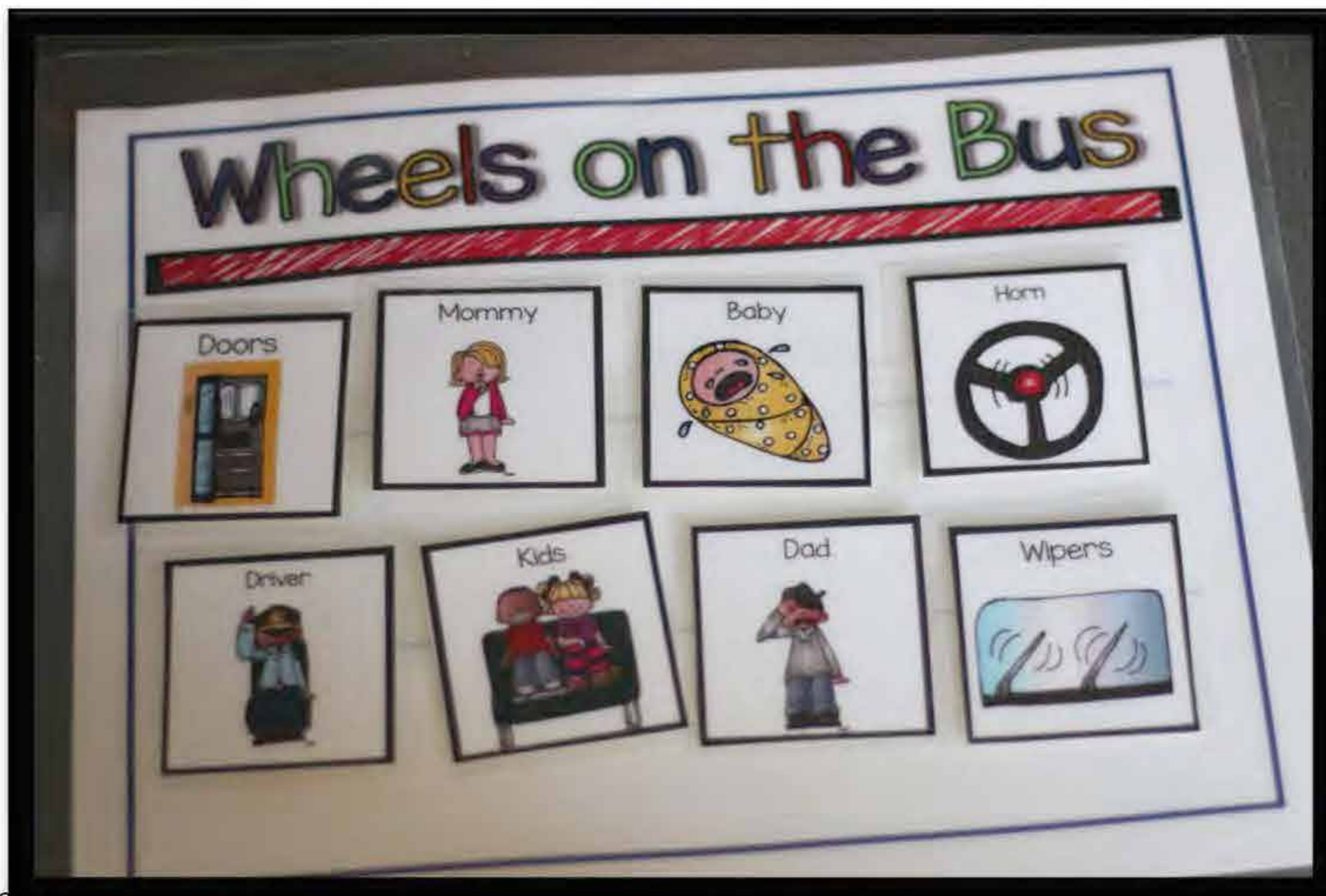
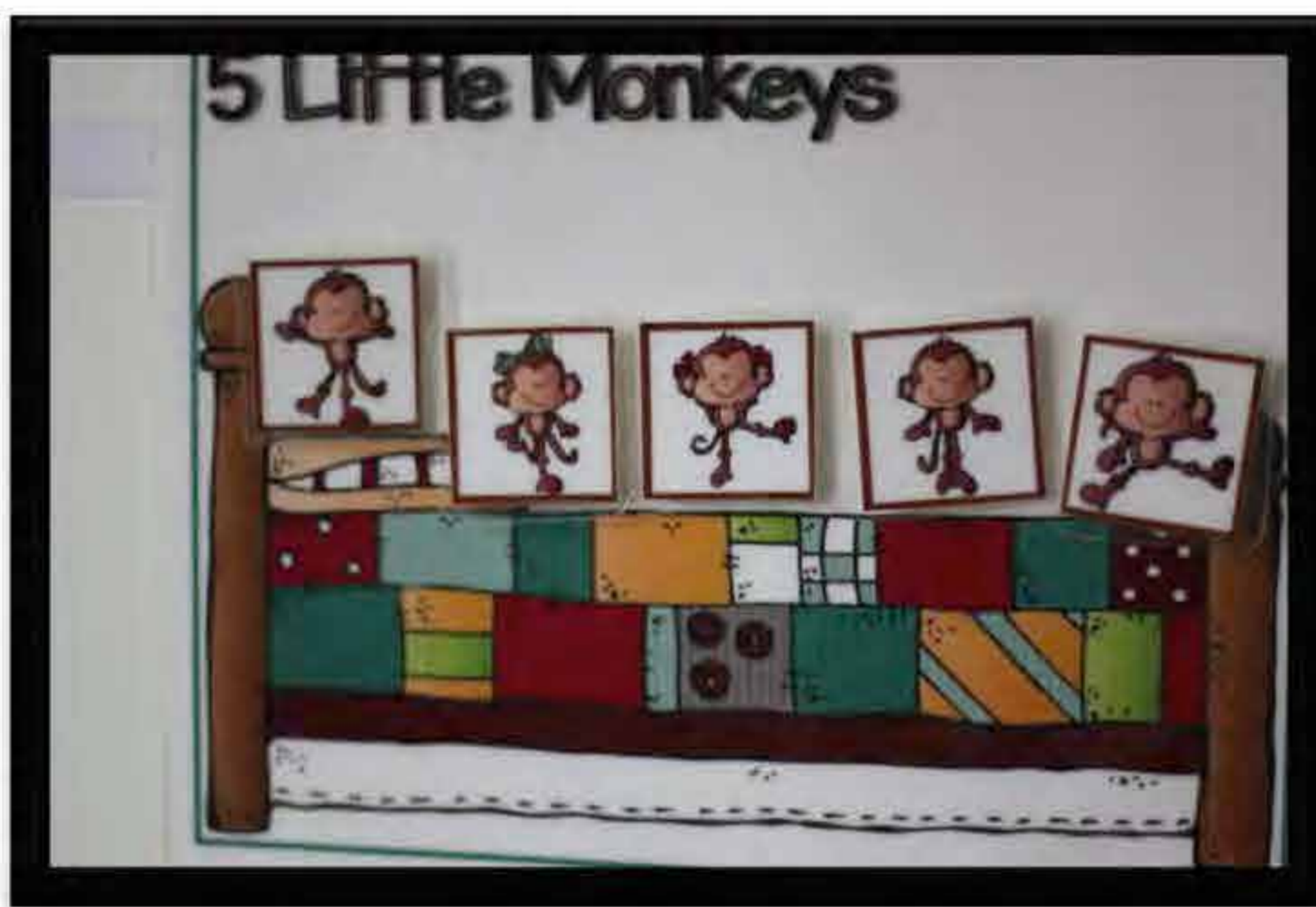


What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Song Supports

I have included visual cues to remind the students of the upcoming part of a song as well. They can also be used to have the students pick the next verse (e.g., Wheels on the Bus).

Included are *Wheels on the Bus*, *5 Little Ducks*, and *5 Little Monkeys*.



What's Included and How Do I Use it?

How Do I Feel?

I included 2 different ways for students to check in with how they feel today. One is a simple sentence "I Feel ____" and they choose a face. The other is based on the Incredible 5-Point Scale by Kari Dunn Buron which I highly recommend reading. Students choose on a scale of 1 (calm) to 5 (meltdown). I've sent it up so that you can laminate and use a dry erase marker and have the students write their names beside how they feel. With the students when you set it up at the beginning, have the students generate ideas of strategies to use to try to reduce their number on the scale. Then they can refer to that when they need it throughout the day. There are 3 versions—one without pictures, one with girl faces and one with stick-figure pictures.


Students' Names	How Do I Feel Today?	Strategies I Can Try
Seth	5	take deep breaths Ask for break
	4	
Chris	3	take a walk
Missy Jonathan	2	exercises deep breaths
Mike	1	none

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Exercise

Exercise has been shown to be an evidence-based practice in reducing challenging behavior in individuals with autism and other disabilities. It also has important health benefits. You could use this chart for a daily exercise routine, part of indoor recess, or do 1 exercise each 30 minutes as a break within the day.

I have included two types—the one on the left the students (or you) can choose the exercises and the numbers of repetitions. For the one on the right, you or the students can make a schedule of the activities for the exercise routines.

EXERCISES	
Leg Circles 	10

Hopping 	Running 	Stretching 
Knee Bends 	Pushups 	Stretch Side 
Lunges 	Touch Floor 	Sit Ups 
Arm Circles 	Leg Circles 	Touch Toes 

What's Included and How Do I Use it?

Weather

I included a basic weather board to use with visuals for sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, stormy, raining, snow, foggy, windy, hot, cold, moderate, and freezing.

Another great activity I would include in morning meeting is having the students choose clothes to match the weather. To do this, I use my Weather Kids activities and, instead of making file folders from them, I just use the pages. There are boys and girls. You can check it out in my store.

Today's Weather is

temperature

conditions

