

# Let's Prepare For School!



Discover tips and ideas for creating an  
exciting atmosphere for learning in your  
homeschool classroom!



# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	1
Introduction .....	2
Supply List .....	3
Morning Routine .....	4-7
About Mrs. Candace .....	8



ABC

## Getting Ready To Homeschool Preschool

Our homeschool preschool adventure began when our oldest turned 3 years old. The 'school room' was part of his birthday present. I had so much fun preparing it behind closed doors, and he was so excited when the door was finally opened and revealed the surprise.

I'd like to share some of what I did and how I did it.

First of all, we didn't begin school all strict and rigid. I sought up bright colors when filling our classroom. You want to make this a fun time, a time of learning together WITH your child and not just teaching AT them.

No stress, no worries, no strict schedule. Children are in an environment that's warm and welcoming, and will be eager to learn. For younger students, you'll just be tricking them. They think that they are just having fun, when they will really be learning!

Learning is not just bookwork, but rather learning as you live. So many opportunities are available to teach your child each day – from cooking, to laundry, cleaning, shopping, etc... These offer math skills, sorting skills, basic learning skills, reading, color recognition, and more!

## Introduction

Be creative as you prepare your supply closet and school room! Many of my items I found at thrift stores (an easel/ chalkboard), yard sales (lots of 'school' books for young ones), or my children received for gifts (Magna Doodles, Aqua Doodles).

Instead of traditional presents, my oldest was THRILLED to receive 'school' stuff for his birthday when he turned 3. We gave him a backpack loaded with crayons, paper, markers, glue, scissors, etc...

For some items, I went to the local Dollar Tree. Poster board makes a great calendar, and they usually have teacher's products that you can use to make the 'days' that you'll attach on your calendar. (I'll provide pictures of how I made things.)

That's also where I picked up many workbooks. Books aren't generally recommended for learning this early on, but my children LOVE to do them – so we do. They definitely are NOT necessary.



Copyright 2008 - 2011

ABC

### What I bought to get started in our classroom:

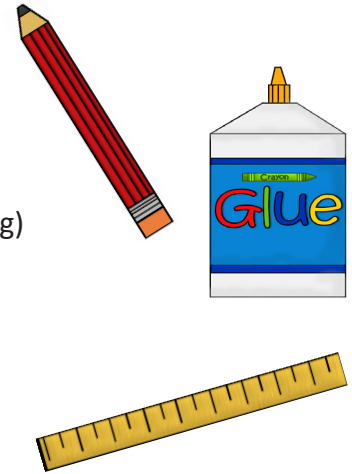
- Colored baskets from \$1 store to separate each child's books
- Construction paper
- Paint (found in clearance department)
- Paintbrushes
- Large sidewalk chalk (doesn't break as easily)
- Easel/ chalkboard at the thrift store
- Desk and chairs (yard sale)
- Large crayons
- Plastic sleeves for pages (makes reusable worksheets)
- Trifold display board (corrugated)
- Glitter (\$1 store)
- Heavy posterboard 8.5 x 14 packs (\$1 store)
- Child scissors
- Glue
- Dry erase markers
- Adhesive velcro strip rolls
- Decorative calendar day squares



### Supply List

### What I use from home:

- Cotton balls
- Old pie pans (for paint)
- Old t-shirts (smocks for painting)
- Paper plates
- Old cereal
- Old flour
- Popsicle sticks
- Scrap paper
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Sponges
- Old newspapers/ magazines
- Cereal boxes
- Empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls



*Before you think you have to buy something, consider if you can make it yourself instead!*



Copyright 2008 - 2011

ABC

### Daily Routine - From Our School to Yours

Each morning, begin school together in a set place, reading a Scripture passage together, followed by prayer. We have a large ABC rubber floor mat where each child will sit on the letter that their name begins with.

You can read from Psalms, the Proverb of the day, or choose another passage that speaks to your heart. Read from YOUR Bible, not a child's Bible. Although they might not understand every word, especially like ours with the KJV, their souls will begin to soak up God's Word.

Think on this for a moment, if you waited until they could understand, they would be preteens or older before they ever heard the Word of the Lord read to them! Begin young and they will grasp quickly as the Spirit speaks to their hearts.

When we began doing this many years ago, my 3 year old would stop me after every other word it seemed, asking me what it was talking about. If your child should do the same, take the time to stop and explain on their level what the Word is saying to us.

If you feel unprepared for this, read the section the night before and ask the Lord to reveal what He's saying in the passage to you. He will provide the answers for your children. Remember, end this time in prayer.

### Morning Routine

#### Board Time

After starting the day with the Lord, we move along to our board. Here we learn the days of the week, the weather, our colors, our letters and our numbers. There is also a space at the bottom center for our weekly Bible verse.



Copyright 2008 - 2011

ABC

## Morning Routine

### Supplies Needed to Make Board:

- Trifold corrugated board
- Posterboard
- Adhesive velcro strip rolls
- Markers
- Number and Letter Flashcards
- Clear scrapbook corners
- Ruler
- Die cut stencils

To make my weather cards, I traced scrapbook die cut templates. I used ABC die cut frames to trace and color in the letters for the days of the week.

I used the colors of the rainbow, though my blue and purple are backwards - oops!

I cut the adhesive velcro strips into small squares, and attached one side to the card, and the other to the board.

I attached clear, adhesive scrapbook picture corners to the board to hold two sided materials, such as my letter and number flashcards.

### Let's Begin Our Board!

Begin your day by removing the prior 'day', and placing all the days together.

Each day, ask your child how many days are in a week. As much as you'd like to help them, give them plenty of time to think and answer themselves. If they are right, praise them!! If they are wrong, simply encourage them to "count them with me and let's see how many there are!"

Point to each day as you say the name. Sing the days of the week to the tune of "Merrily We Roll Along", again, pointing to the correct day as you sing them.

### Days of the Week Song –

*There are 7 days in a week, in a week, in a week,  
There are 7 days in a week, and I can say them all.  
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday is the last day – and I can say them all!*



Ask your child what day yesterday was, and point to it on the chart. What day do they think today might be? If they seem unsure, silently point to the 'next' day after yesterday (today), and see if they recognize it by "reading".

If they still are unsure, slowly begin to sound it out – allowing them to finish if they suddenly remember, or you complete it and ask them to say it with you.



ABC

## Morning Routine

NEVER criticize your child for wrong answers!!

Instead, gently correct them and explain what is right, and how you can tell what is right. Work with them and they will love school and succeed. Teach at them, and they will lose interest.

Review “yesterday was”, “today is”, and “tomorrow will be”.

Next, move onto the weather for the day. Look out the window and ask your child to “be the weatherman” and tell you what the weather looks like for the day. Keep it simple – sunny, cloudy, windy, storms, and snow.

## Colors

I found that our local Dollar Tree had a cute border with the basic colors. I cut each color out separately and stuck them onto colored cardstock of the same color. Then I attached this to the board, and we bring it to our weekly color/ letter/ and number section each week.

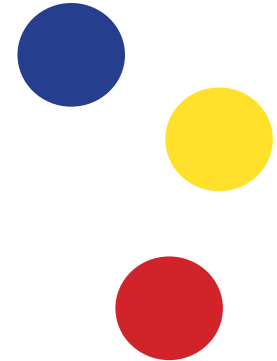
Review the color of the week – saying the name, asking your child to point to the color on the board, and then spell it together.

For our color song, we sing the “Colors of the Rainbow” song off of Signing Time (sign language for children). You can find more information about them on our website.

## Letter and Number of the Week

**Letter of the week – We say the letter name of the week, point to and trace it with our finger on the board as we sound it out. I ask them to think of some words that begin with that letter.**

Number of the week - We say the number, pointing to it and tracing it with our fingers. Can they find “2” of something in the room and count them?



123  
ABC



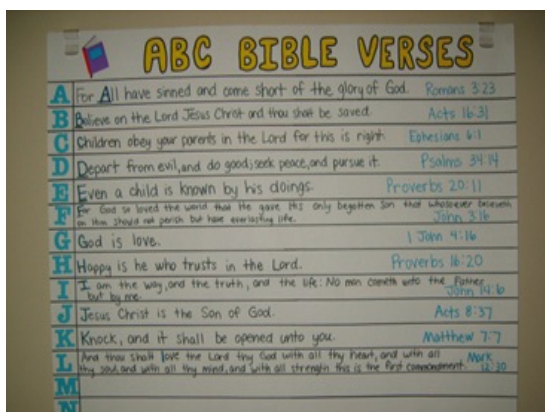
Copyright 2008 - 2011

ABC

## Scripture Verse Chart

After reviewing our letter of the week, we move over to our Bible Verse chart. Here I have taken a sheet of posterboard, created a header, along with 26 sections - with room for all 26 ABC Bible memory verses.

We read the verse of the week, based on our letter, and sing the accompanying song from the “ABC Bible Memory Verse Songs” CD from Sonbeams.



## Morning Routine

### Calendar Time

Next, we move along to our calendar. I used a bright colored posterboard for this. Each month can be cut from white posterboard, and attached with the velcro adhesive strips. I cut a thin strip of white posterboard to write the days of the week on, and used double sided tape to attach this.

**The days of the week were some cute little cards that I found in the school supply section of our \$1 store.**

Begin by reviewing the current month. What was last month? What month comes next?

What are the days of the week? Point to each day as you name them together.

Today will be an empty square. What was yesterday? Count each number from 1 to see what number today should be - pointing to each as you say them together.

You'll be amazed at how quickly little ones will learn to count with you! Stop on the current day, and see if your child knows what number it will be. Allow them to stick the number on the chart.

You've now completed your daily routine! This is important to stick to closely each morning – keeping letters, numbers, months, days, etc... fresh on their minds each day!



Copyright 2008 - 2011



ABC



## About Sonbeams

### About Sonbeams

Hi! I'm Mrs. Candace from Sonbeams, and hope this booklet will encourage and inspire you as you prepare for your own homeschool journey!

I first started down this road 3 years ago now as a preschool homeschool mom, but wasn't 100% unprepared. My past preschool teaching history gave me a jump start as far as preparing myself and my classroom were concerned.

I learned then to make use of what I had, or could purchase cheap! You'll be amazed at how cute you can make things with paper and markers, or a quick trip to the \$1 store.

As you walked through our morning routine, don't feel this is the way you must do your own school. This is what worked for us, and taught the things that were important to me for my children.

Many of these main board items are explored further in the curriculum I wrote out from our schooling, the "Let's Learn!" homeschool preschool curriculum. This series features "Let's Learn Our ABC's!", "Let's Learn Our 123's!", "Let's Learn Our Colors and Shapes!", and "Let's Learn Our Bible!". Each lesson builds upon the other each day, and all are based on God's Word.

For more information on Sonbeams, please visit: <http://www.Sonbeams.com>. Should you have any questions regarding homeschooling for Pre-K and K ages, please don't hesitate to email me at: [Candace@Sonbeams.com](mailto:Candace@Sonbeams.com).

*Mrs. Candace*

*Thank you for respecting our time, effort, and copyright by keeping this book for your own personal use. We would be grateful if you share our website rather than our work. Thank you!*

### Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Copyright 2008 - 2011