

Lamont Books Standing Order

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Teacher Notes and Activities

My First Day at School

By Meredith Costain & Michelle Mackintosh

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\$25.95

My First Day at School is designed to help reassure and prepare school-age children for that magical first day in an unfamiliar environment. It follows the experiences and emotions of four very different children from their first teary farewells to their parents through to the joy of making new friends and the discovery that school can be an exciting and enjoyable place, however challenging.



Themes:

- Starting School
- Adjusting to school

Discussion Points and Activities:

Ideas to use with children during Prep orientation:

- Looking at the front cover, what things do the children on the cover have that they may need for school?
- Brainstorm a list of things you may need for school.
- How does the classroom pictured on the first page differ from your kinder room?
- What do you hope will be in your prep classroom?
- What are some of the rules you think there might be at school?
- What are some of the things that worry the children in the book? For example not having a partner, having to hold hands. How do the children stop being worried about them?
- Think about how you might act in these situations if they happen to you.
- Come up with a list of things the children may be worried about and role-play some resolutions.

Ideas to use with school aged children:

- Do you remember what your classroom looked like on your first day? Draw a picture showing your classroom.
- What things were you worried about before starting school? How did you stop worrying about them?
- What is your favourite part of the school day?
- If you were telling a friend who hasn't started school yet what to expect when they go to school what would be some of the things you would tell them?
- Throughout the story we get to know four characters. Write a story about one of the characters.
- There are also other children at the school. What might their stories be?
- Meredith has written this book in verse using different voices. How does the use of verse impact on the tone of the book? What do we mean by 'voice' in the story? How do the voices differ? How do the different voices add to the feel of the book?
- Try writing reflections on school life using verse. Experiment with different voices.