

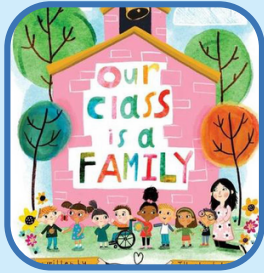
BOOK OF THE MONTH:

Our Class Is a Family

by Shannon Olsen and Sandie Sonke

Ages: 4-7 years old

1. Introducing the Book:



Exploring the Cover

There are so many children on this book cover! Can you count them all? Are there any adults with them? Who do you think this adult is? Do you think she is their teacher? Who is your teacher? Might the pink building be their school? What does your school or daycare look like?

Building Background

Teachers and educators are amazing people who work hard to take good care of you and make you feel happy and healthy. They help you learn new things. They make sure that you and all your friends in the class play nicely with each other, share and have fun. They make your class feel like a family. Think of your teacher or educator. What is their name? What do they look like? What are some of the things they like or dislike?

2. Reading the Book:

The family is not only at home, but at school too.

- Who is the friend from school/daycare you spend the most time with?
- Think of one time you helped your classmate. Can you tell me how you helped them?
- Think of a time when your classmate helped you. Can you tell me what they did and how it made you feel?
- What is one thing you did together with your class and your teacher that was really fun?

3. After Reading the Book: A Portrait of Our Teacher



- Practicing cooperation.
- Learning to express feelings and thoughts through art.



- Practicing dexterity and hand-eye coordination.
- Practicing fine motor skills while working with a variety of art tools.



Materials:

- A large sheet of paper.
- Any arts and crafts materials at your disposal.

Create a portrait of the teacher on a large sheet of paper. Let each child draw a part: the head, the nose, the hair, the clothes, etc. At the end, the portrait will have a part drawn by each child in the class. It might be a bit silly, but that is the best part!

The Clean Up



- Building confidence and independence.
- Participating in the community of the classroom.



- Learning to take initiative.
- Practicing independent decision-making.

The best way to help your wonderful teacher is by being extra good at cleaning up. With the help of the teacher/educator, create a classroom responsibilities chart together. Make the clean up and chores fun by singing a clean up song. For example:

"It is time to clean up now.
Clean up, clean up, we know how.
We can clean up; you will see
Just how clean our room can be."

(The words can be sung to the melody of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star".)

References and Resources

Classroom Responsibilities Charts

Legend



Cognitive



Socio-emotional



Language



Physical