

Unit Four: Ready for Kindergarten
Week 7: Kindergarten Rocks!

Objectives:

To read *Kindergarten Rocks!* with your preschooler, talk about feelings associated with going to kindergarten, and have fun together!

Materials:

A copy of *Kindergarten Rocks!* By Katie Davis

Week 7 Lesson Steps:

1. Start by telling your preschooler that you are starting a new book today called *Kindergarten Rocks!* Talk with your preschooler about predictions for the text.

Example Questions:

- Do you know what someone means when they say something rocks? (You can explain that another word could be *good, great, awesome, super, neat*, etc.)
- What do you see on the front cover?
- What do you think this book is going to be about?

Introduction/Ice Breaker:

Talk about this rhyme with your preschooler

My First Day

See me skip, see me run,

I'm going to school like everyone!

See me work, see me play,

I'm in kindergarten today!

Retrieved from: <http://just4teachers.blogspot.com/p/gift-kindergarten-poetry-journal.html>

2. Ready *Kindergarten Rocks* with your preschooler. Make sure to read the speech bubbles! Research tells us that children pay special attention to the words that are not a part of the story's text, such as street signs in illustrations or writing on clothing.

Fun and Easy Reading Tips:

- Talk with your preschooler about the way that Dexter feels about going to kindergarten. Here are some questions you might ask:
 - Do you really think that Rufus is worried about kindergarten or is Dexter?
 - Why do you think Dexter is worried about kindergarten?
 - Does Dexter change his mind about kindergarten? What does he think about kindergarten by the end of the story?
- Define new words for your preschooler.

- Help your preschooler identify the first sounds of different words in the story. Give your preschooler choices. You could ask, “Does ‘library’ start with the same sound as ‘lunch’ or ‘cafeteria?’”
- Reassure your preschooler. Ask him/her what he/she is nervous about and talk out those feelings. Make sure to acknowledge your preschooler’s feelings and let him/her know that it is okay to be nervous.
- Help your preschooler understand how Dexter is feeling by changing your voice to reflect his worries. Or make up new voices for Miss Sugarmon and Jessie!

Conclusion:

Today you read *Kindergarten Rocks!* with your preschooler and talked about Dexter’s worries about kindergarten. By validating your preschooler’s concerns about kindergarten, you are making him/her feel loved and supported!

Follow-Up Activity:

Help your preschooler learn how to help himself/herself relax when he/she is worried. Take deep breaths together, give big hugs, or try some yoga stretches and poses. Tell your preschooler that he/she can use these strategies if he/she gets nervous about kindergarten.

Writing Extension:

Help your preschooler write and illustrate a few sentences about Dexter’s first day in kindergarten. What happened? Where did he go? What did he do? Who was there?

Early Developmental Standards Taught in Week 7

- With guidance and support, discriminate between words with the same and different first letter sounds.
- With modeling and support, use a combination of drawing, dictating, and letters to explain information about a familiar topic or informational topic.
- Show awareness of conventional letter-sound relationships through use of invented spelling in writing.
- With modeling and guidance, ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something which is not understood.