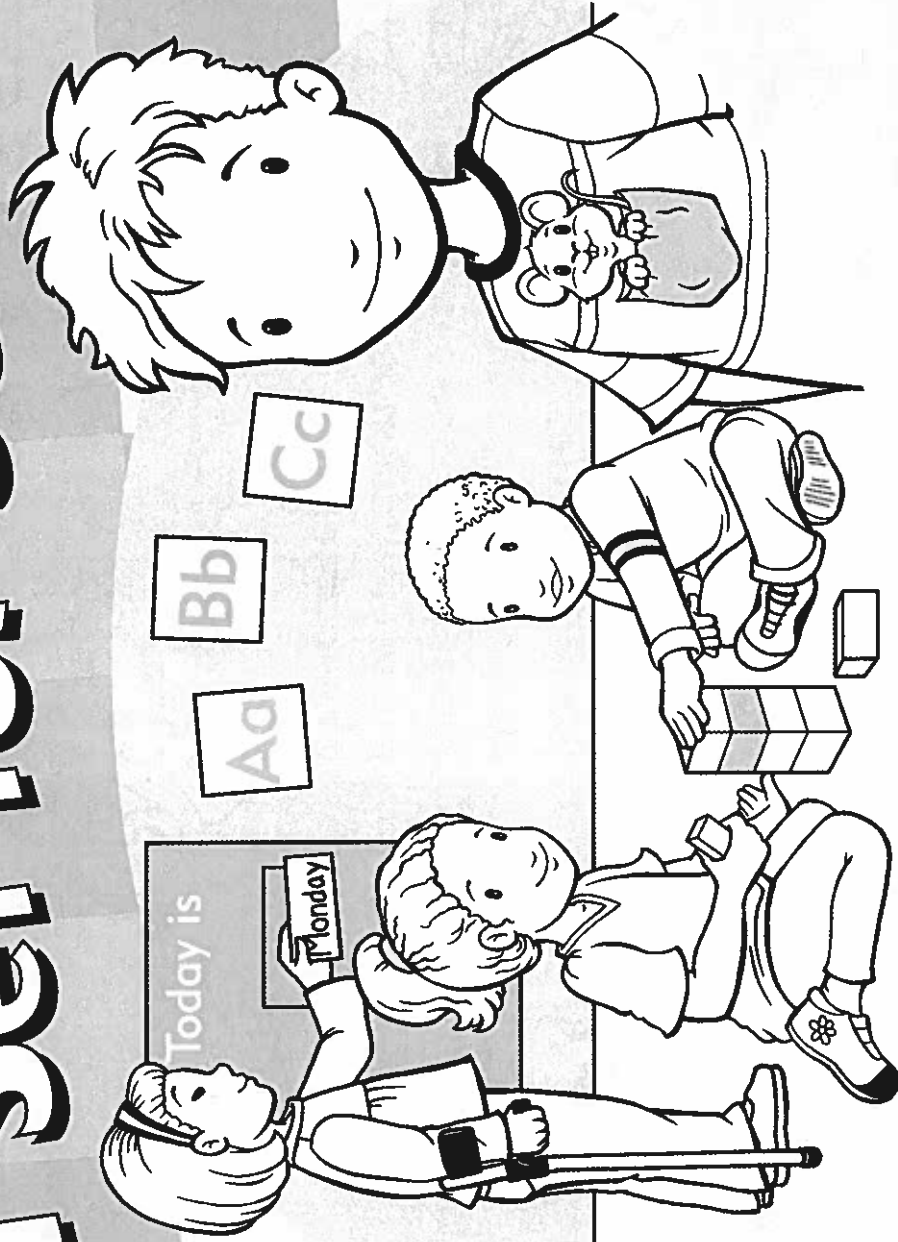


# Get Set for School



A 3-Month Coloring and Activities Calendar

# You're getting big—and big kids go to school!

Draw a line from each description to the picture.

## At school, you will:

A message to parents

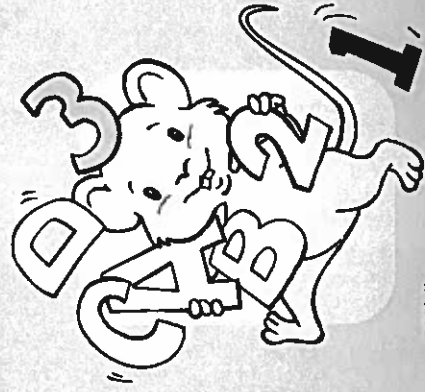
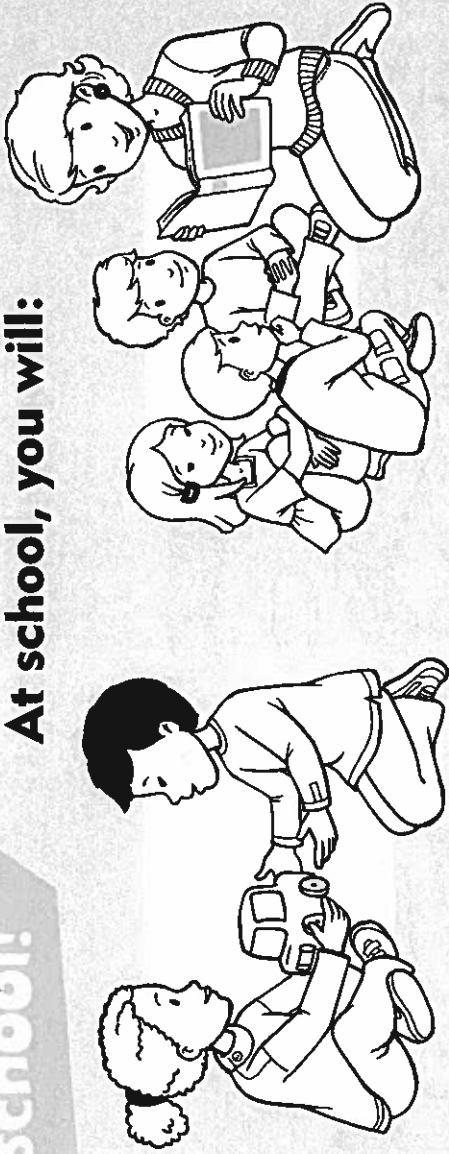
**Children are often excited about starting school—and a little afraid.** Starting school means:

- being away from you
- learning new routines and new rules
- following directions from other adults
- getting along with other children.

**This calendar can make starting school easier for your child.** It has:

- activities you and your child can enjoy
- pictures for your child to color
- tips to help you help your child be ready for school.

**Complete the calendar with your child.** In the spaces provided, fill in the names and dates for the 3 months before the start of school.



- paint and draw
- listen to stories
- sing songs
- learn letters and numbers
- make new friends
- play games

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Ask your child to pick up toys at the end of play. Thank your child for helping.

Say "please" and "thank you" often—your child will, too.

Set aside a special time to read to your child each day.

If possible, have children who will be in your child's class come over to play. Try to have them play with your child regularly.

Encourage your child to dress him- or herself. Teach your child how to use zippers, put shoes on and take shoes off.

Help your child learn to use words—not force—when he or she is angry. Give examples of ways to talk about feelings.

Help your child learn the names of basic colors. Make it fun. For example, ask, "Is there something blue in this room?"

Encourage the artist in your child. Provide crayons, safety scissors and large sheets of paper.

Read-aloud tip: Find a picture book without words. Ask your child to tell you the story based on what he or she sees.

Explain why sharing toys with others is important. (It helps everyone have more fun!)

Ask your child to tell you a story. Write it down.

Have your child make choices (for example, which socks to wear). Making choices builds independence and confidence.

Encourage your child to dress him- or herself. Teach your child how to use zippers, put shoes on and take shoes off.

Read-aloud tip: Find a picture book without words. Ask your child to tell you the story based on what he or she sees.

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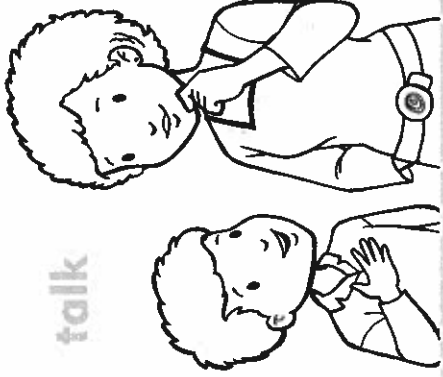
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**You'll do different things at different times at school.**

**Find the 2 children wearing the same clothes.**

**You'll have a chance to:**

talk



eat



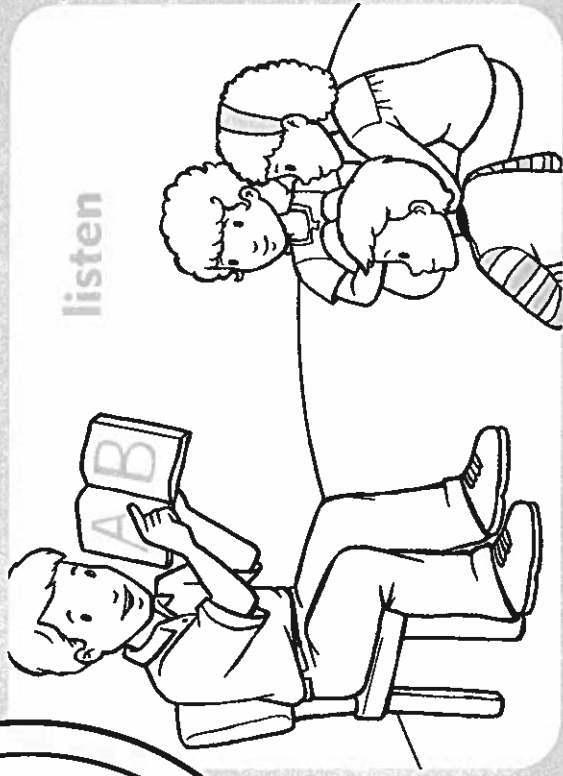
work



play



listen



**Your teacher and other school helpers will let you know when it's the right time to do these things.**

YEAR

MONTH

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Play a card or board game that involves taking turns.

Encourage your child to use the toilet and wash hands by him- or herself.

Teach your child to say his or her first and last name, address and phone number.

Read-aloud tip: Move your fingers under the words as you say them. This will help prepare your child to read from left to right.

Help your child find different shapes around your house. (For example, a round table is a circle, a bed is a rectangle, etc.)

Make sure your child's immunizations (shots) are up-to-date. Keep a record to bring to school.

Walk or drive by your child's school. Point to his or her classroom, if possible.

Help your child practice writing his or her first name. Start with a capital letter, then use lowercase for the rest.

Put on some music and dance with your child—or march together around the room.

Explain that good manners help people get along with each other.

Talk to your child as you do chores. Questions that begin with *who*, *what*, *when*, *where* or *why* can get your child talking.

Praise your child when you see him or her sharing toys or helping others.

Give your child simple tasks that involve matching, sorting or counting objects (socks, towels, utensils, etc.).

# How will you get to school?

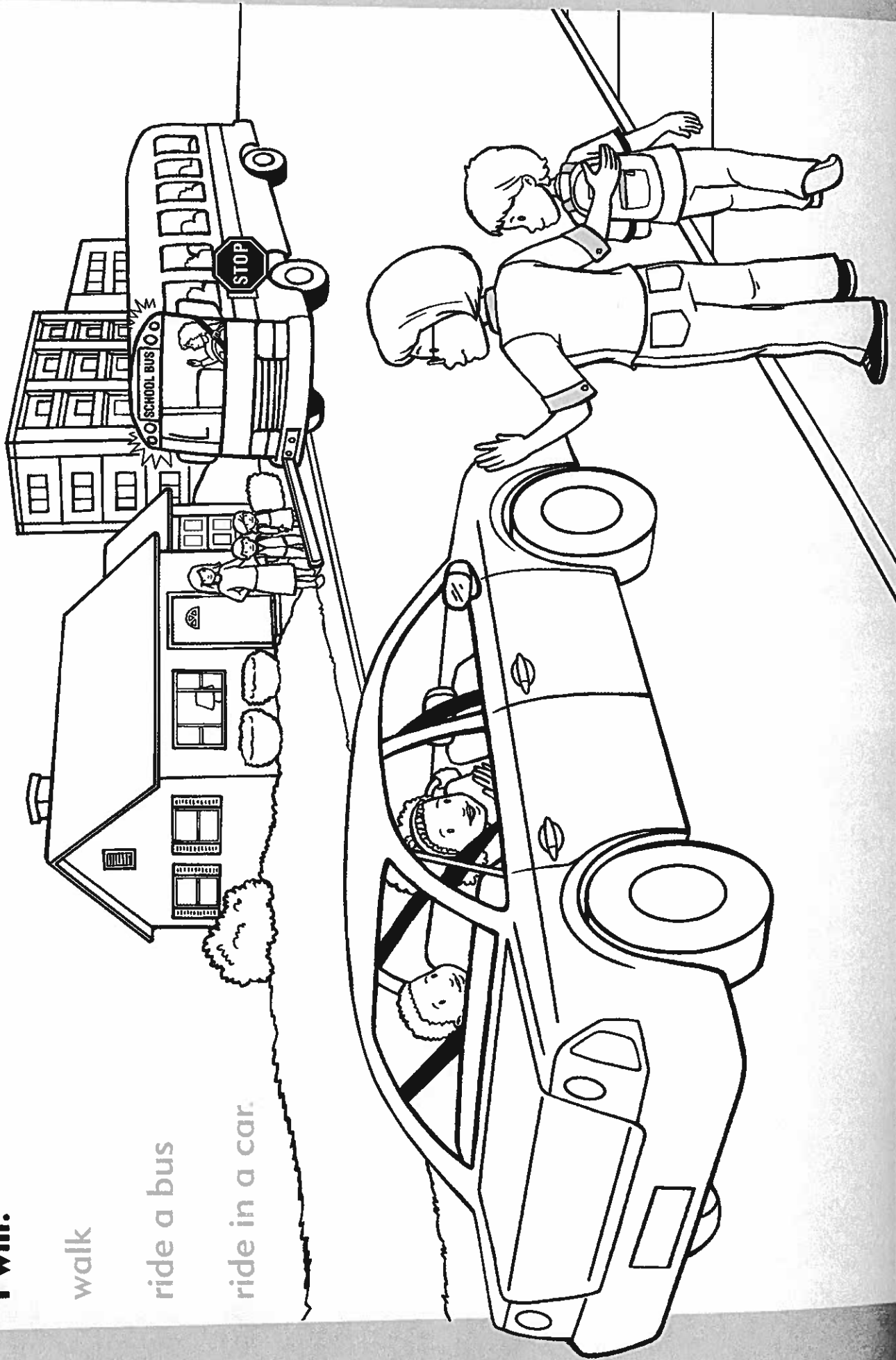
Draw a circle around the way you will get to school.

**I will:**

walk

ride a bus

ride in a car.



YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Show your child how he or she will get to school or the bus stop. You or another trusted adult should always go with your child.)

Play "follow the leader." Have your child copy everything you do (hop, skip, etc.). Then, let your child lead you!

Tell your child about the fun things you did when you were in school: art, music, games, etc.

Adjust your child's sleeping and eating times to the school-year schedule.

Arrange to visit the classroom with your child and meet the teacher. Show your child where the restroom is.

Help your child learn how to catch and throw a ball.

Ask a librarian to help you find children's stories about starting school. Read them to your child this month.

Take a walk with your child. Ask him or her to point out things that are living (such as trees) and nonliving (such as rocks).

Let your child help choose school clothes that are sturdy and fit well. Remove any drawstrings or ties.

If your child will ride the bus, meet your child at the bus stop as he or she gets off after school.

As the first day nears, stay positive about school—and proud of your child. Your little one's a big kid now!

Read-aloud tip: Pick a book with words and pictures that you've read before. Ask your child to tell the story in his or her own words.

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