

Classroom Activity: Starting School



Children can experience many different emotions when they attend a new school or go to school for the first time. They may be excited to meet new friends and try new things, they may be nervous about new expectations or about being away from their family, or they may have mixed emotions with both excitement and worry.

By using this activity and strategy song from **DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD**, you can help children better understand their feelings about going to school.

Children Are Working On

- Feelings about separation and independence
- Memory skills
- Developing self-control

Materials

- 11 ½ minute episode: "Daniel Goes to School"

Set Up the Topic

- Today we're going to talk about starting school and all the thoughts and feelings we have about that.
- Sometimes you might miss your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, or even your dog or cat.
- Let's watch a video about Daniel Tiger starting school.

Watch

Watch "Daniel Goes to School."

Talk About It

After watching the video, ask children the following questions:

- How do you think Daniel felt about going to school?
- How do you think Daniel felt when his dad was getting ready to leave?
- What did Daniel do to feel better
- Can you think of a time when you felt like Daniel?
- What did you do to help yourself feel better?

Sing the Strategy Song: 🎵 🎵 **Grownups come back.** 🎵

(continued)



Watch more videos and play games with Daniel Tiger by visiting pbskids.org/daniel

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Play & Explore

- Pay close attention to individual children when their families are leaving. When they seem upset, you could remind them what Daniel did by singing:

♪♪ Grownups come back. ♪♪

- You could put toy animals in the sandbox so that children might pretend hide and find.
- Play peek-a-boo with individual children who seem to be having a hard time coping with feelings of separation.
- You can watch the shorter clips and sing Daniel Tiger's strategy song. Remind the children that they can sing that song, and it might help them feel better.



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