

Monster . . .

This community-building activity brings children together for some monstrous fun, encouraging teamwork, and appreciation of differences.

You Need

- ⑥ arts and crafts supplies
- ⑥ clean milk cartons
- ⑥ cardboard tubes
- ⑥ egg cartons
- ⑥ other recycled materials



1. Divide the class into small groups.
2. Provide each group with materials. Invite each group to use the materials to build a monster. The great thing about monsters is, of course, that they can have five arms or ten heads. This means that children can concentrate on having fun together, not on who is doing what.
3. Ask students to name their monsters, then introduce their creature to the class. Display monsters around the room. Children will enjoy hearing you refer to them from time to time. For example, as you discuss a story, you might ask, "What do you think Monster Max would say about what happened?"



What's Inside?

What could be more welcoming than a first-day gift, wrapped in bright paper and tied with a big bow? Inviting children to wonder what's inside is an engaging activity all by itself. Start by planning a simple gift for your new students—for example, a snack to share, a new book to read aloud, a puzzle to solve, a special sticker or certificate for each child, or a big box full of bright, new markers for the class.

Wrap the gift in a box that is just the right size. Display the box where children will easily see it when they enter the room. As the buzz begins about who it's for and what's inside, ask children to write down (or dictate) their guesses. Encourage them to share their reasoning, too. Discuss different ideas. What could fit inside? What couldn't? After allowing plenty of time for the suspense to build, slowly unwrap the gift and share it.