

Getting Started with *Every Day Counts*® – Grade 1

Preparing the Every Day Counts Bulletin Board ('05 edition)

Step 1: (30 min)

If you are new to *Every Day Counts*, before you unpack your kit, read the front matter (p.5-9) in the *Every Day Counts* teacher's guide and also get acquainted with August/September, the first chapter. This will help you get to know the kit elements and what to look for your start-of-school set up (p. 16-17, 8-9).

Step 2: (5 -? min.)

Examine your room set-up to find the best place to display *Every Day Counts* so that all students can see all the elements. A bulletin board is handy for pinning up the materials, but if such a board is not present or not in a good location for viewing, many teachers have been able to place the calendar and other elements on a wall, whiteboard, or chalkboard using tape or magnets. Some have even placed a science display board or sheet of foam core in the chalk tray to tape, or pin elements to using T pins. If possible, it is nice to place *Every Day Counts* where you can gather the children up close to view the Calendar and other elements.

Step 3: Counting Tape and Totally Ten – Day of School

See T. Guide, p. 24-27 and click on *Samples-Photos* and *Questions-1* at www.edconline.net
(25 min. prep) Begin 1st day of school or catch up to present Day of School)

- To create the Counting Tape, unroll and put up at least 15 feet of the blank Adding Machine Tape from the EDC Kit. The Counting Tape needn't be in the same part of the room as the other elements on the board as long as everyone can see it.
- Pull the 3" colored paper squares from the EDC Kit. You will be attaching squares of the same color on each of the first ten days of school and then change the color after every ten days to 100.
- Locate the Ten Grids poster in the EDC Kit. Make slits where indicated and insert paper clips to hold the ten grids found in the Teacher Resource Cardstock (TR 9). Attach a Ten Grid from the EDC Kit Teacher Resource Cardstock to the white paper. Use blue dots in the top row and red dots in the bottom row of the Ten Grid to match the number appearing on the Days of School Counting Tape. See Teacher's guide, p.25.

Step 4: Clock - Day of School

See T Guide, p. 28-30 and click on 05 *Samples* Photos and Questions-1 at www.edconline.net

(5 min. prep) Begin early in the school year.

- Pull the Clock from the EDC Kit Cardstock (TR 8) and place it inside one of the large clear pockets or laminate it. Attach one long minute hand from the EDC Kit to the outside of the Clock using a paper fastener. Use overhead pens to fill in one minute for each Day of School, alternating the color every five minutes.

Step 5: August/September Calendar and Birthday Graph

See T. Guide, p. 18-20 and click on 05 *Samples* Photos and Questions-1 at www.edconline.net

(25 minutes prep) No lamination needed. Begin the 1st of September or catch it up to present day in September. *Note:* If you begin school in August or are year round, you may choose to use the August pieces for your first month of school. August and September reveal the same basic pattern.

- Prepare Calendar by creating slits on slit marks using an *Exacto* knife or box cutter and placing a paper clip in each slit.
- Pull out the first three sheets of Calendar pieces for August or September. The month is printed at the bottom of each sheet..
- Pull apart the pieces and display them on the Calendar from the first of the month up to the present day of the month. After the present date, some teachers choose to place each piece face down under each paper clip (so they can be turned over one at a time on each new day of the month).
- Prepare Birthday Package Tags from EDC Kit Teacher Resource Cardstock (TR 14) to mark the August or September month's birthdays on the Calendar. Color one Birthday Package for this month to display near the Calendar. See T. Guide, p. 30-31.
By October 1st, prepare all the Packages and display them in order from January to December. See T. Guide, p. 32.

Step 6: Number Builder – Combinations for 5

See T. Guide, p.21-23, and click on 05 *Samples*-Photos and Questions1 at www.edconline.net

(10 min. prep) Begin early in September.

Use a sheet of 11 x 17 construction paper with the longer side at the bottom to make the Number Builder mat. (Laminate, if available.) Cut 3 rows of 4 slits about 3.5 inches apart going across and going down. Insert 12 paper clips and secure them on the backside with tape. For September, attach two clear pockets from your EDC Kit on the left side of the mat. See T. Guide, p. 21.

You are done!

This is everything you will need to begin sharing the September elements with your students. September requires the greatest preparation time. Next month you will continue to use these materials and add in a couple of new items. By November all the elements will be introduced reducing preparation time for the remaining month.

To see Question Starter Cards click on *SAMPLES*:

The note cards you see accompanying each photo with starter questions can be printed as PDF files (using Acrobat Reader), cut apart, and mounted on 5x7 note cards for your easy reference during *Every Day Counts* discussions. During the month, please add to your cards questions of your own design or questions from your reading that you want to remember to try out. Some questions should aim at simply having students examine the data and describe what they see. Others questions should require students to engage in higher level thinking, requiring them to reason, analyze, make predictions, and form generalizations about concepts being explored each month.

*NOTE: By Fall 2005, our current Fall term **EDC online class** for users of the '98 Every Day Counts edition (audit or grad credit), will be updated for teachers using the new '05 edition. Participants will be able to log-in for access to grade level photo/question cards to support use of EDC elements each month, September through December. Participants also interact with fellow EDC users and coauthor through a grade level Every Day Counts Discussion Board. Inquire at: edcwestj@aol.com for Fall 2005 log-in.*