

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

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.5-6) 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 get out 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 Clip Collection - Day of School

See T. Guide, p. 21-26, and click on *Samples* - Photos and Questions K 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 25 feet of the blank Adding Machine Tape from the EDC Kit. Click on *Samples* on edconline.net Home Page to see Sept Photos and Questions for this element. 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 attach a different color square to the Counting Tape each of the first ten days of school and then repeat the color pattern every ten days. Save a light bright color to use for Day 10 to make it stand out.
- To create a place for the Clip Collection, use a 12" x 18" piece of construction paper and clip or pin the first paper clip in the top left corner. When introducing this element to the class, add enough clips to match the number appearing on the Days of School Counting Tape. You will begin a new chain each time a chain of ten collects. See Teacher's guide, p 25.

Step 4: September Calendar

See T. Guide, p. 18-22, and click on *Samples*-Photos and Questions K 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 your new school year. August and September reveal the same basic pattern.

- Prepare the 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 three sheets of Calendar pieces for August or September. The month is printed at the bottom of the sheet.
- Pull apart the pieces and display them on the Calendar from 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).

Step 5: Birthday Graph

- Color, label, and cut out a Birthday Basket for each month from EDC Kit Teacher Resource Cardstock (TR 4). Place student's names and birthdates on the Present Pictures and organize by month. See T. Guide, p.27-29.

You are done!

This is everything you will need to begin sharing *Every Day Counts* with your students at the start of school. This first month 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 months.

To see Question Starter Cards click on *SAMPLES* at www.edconline.net:

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.*