



My Teacher's Not Here! Teaching Guidelines and Activities

Created by author and early childhood educator, Lana Button- author of *My Teacher's NOT Here! (Kids Can Press)* illustrated by Christine Battuz

Class Survey

This morning I was excited for school This morning I was nervous for school

**What are the results of our survey? What did most of the students like best? How did we find out?*

Let's make Lists:

What should a supply teacher know about our class?

Encourage students to think about class routines, the class leader's role, classroom rules, etc.

What can you say to someone who is not feeling well?

What I like most about school What I like least about school

**Students can draw a picture about the answer they feel strongest about, in terms of likes and dislikes. Encourage students to label their drawing with letter sounds, words and sentences.*

-This activity can validate a student's unhappy feelings while highlighting positive points in either situation.

Fill in the blank

Sometimes I feel _____ about school.

**Encourage students to share emotions (ie: nervous, happy, frustrated, excited) that they might feel about school and create a class list.*

In *My Teacher's NOT Here!* Kitty was nervous about school when her teacher was away.

When I am nervous about school I can _____.

**Encourage students to share their positive mental health strategies. Some suggestions you might make are, finding a friend to share feelings with, drawing a picture, taking some deep breaths, looking at a favourite story, taking a movement break, holding a soft toy.*

I like when my teacher _____

*Create a class list or have students create an individual picture and share with the class. Students can be encouraged to add words and sentences to their picture. *This activity might be saved for a supply teacher to complete with the class.*

Let's Get Creative

If your teacher was away, what kind of card would you make for them?

**Provide students with folded cardstock to create a card. Students can be encouraged to create get-well greetings, to address the card to their teacher and to sign the card. *Students may choose to make a card for someone else who might need a 'pick me up'.*