



Getting ready for the first day of school with *Busy Bees* resources

These resources assist in setting up a positive, welcoming and supportive environment in an early childhood classroom with a *Busy Bee* theme.

Resources include:

- Busy Bee* Welcome letter template
- Busy Bee* Welcome sign
- Busy Bee* Desk name template
- Busy Bee* Name badge template
- Busy Bee* Who is here? - chart heading
- Busy Bee* Find your name - poster
- Busy Bee* Name card template
- Busy Bee* I am . . . first day of school worksheet
- Busy Bee* Birthday chart

Suggestions and checklist

Before the big day:

- Complete, print and fold a [welcome letter](#) for each student. Placing it in an envelope with the child's name on the front is an added touch.
- Print out a [Welcome sign](#) and place it prominently at the entrance to the classroom. (see suggestions below)
- Complete, print and laminate a [desk name](#) for each student. Fold the card along the middle so that it stands in a triangle and shows both names the right way up.



Hint: These could be printed out on different coloured paper for different groups, teams or houses. For example, I usually print mine out in the house colours. That way students have no difficulty knowing what house they are in when sports day comes around. If you don't have this knowledge before the school year commences you could add a coloured dot when the information is available.

- Complete, print and laminate a [name badge](#) for each student. Attach a ribbon lanyard to each.

- Print on A3 and cut out the [Who is here? chart heading](#).
- Print the [Find your name poster](#).
- Complete, print and laminate a [name card](#) for each student.
- Complete the date and print an [I am . . . first day of school](#) worksheet for each child

On the big day, before students arrive:

- Place the [Welcome sign](#) prominently at the entrance to the classroom. (see suggestions below)
- Set up the [Who is here? chart](#), [Find your name](#) instructions and [name cards](#).
- Place the [welcome letter](#), [desk name](#) and [name badge](#) for each student on a desk. This gives them somewhere to go when they come in and a place to put their things, a special place for just them. It can always be changed later if need be.

During the day

- Have children complete the [I am . . . on the first day of school](#) sheet. The drawing will give you an idea of their self-concept and from the writing you will be able to gauge their knowledge of print. I usually do these before the first break and make a display of them during first break. Students love to see their work displayed. It gives them an immediate sense of belonging, of being valued, and of ownership.

Additional suggestions:

- Photograph each student. Print the photos and attach each to their [I am . . . on the first day of school](#) sheet. This will be lovely to review at the end of the year.
- Make a second copy of each student's photograph. Attach these to a large chart alongside their name on the door. This once again reinforces a sense of belonging, of being valued, and ownership.



I hope you enjoy using these templates for busy bees.

I'm sure your children will love them.

Mine always have!