

Really Good™ Activity Guide

Interlocking Kids Puzzle Kit

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® Interlocking Kids Puzzle Kit! These delightful, corrugated people-shaped puzzle pieces may be decorated in many ways to address many classroom themes and fun-filled purposes, such as:

- Back-to-School
- All About Me (self-esteem)
- 100th Day of School
- Birthdays
- Multicultural Awareness
- Community Helpers

Read on to discover some exciting suggestions for how you and your students might like to design these Kids Shapes Puzzle Pieces for use in your classroom.

Included in this Really Good Stuff® set you'll find:

- 32 corrugated blank Kids Shapes Puzzle Pieces
- Really Good™ Activity Guide.

Activities

Teaching Tip: Before trying any of the activities below, trace the puzzle pieces onto paper and make copies of the tracings. Cut shapes out. Offer these "scrap puzzle pieces" to children so they can plan and practice their designs before adding designs to actual puzzle pieces.

Back-to-School

As a first day of school activity, have each child decorate a Kids Shapes Puzzle Piece to resemble his or herself. Use a camera to take a headshot of each child. Print each picture, trim to fit, and glue each to a head of a Kids Shapes Puzzle Piece. Have children use fabric scraps or markers to add clothing to the piece. Children can also glue yarn (the color of their own hair) to the picture.

Play a name guessing game ("I'm thinking of someone whose first name begins with the sound of the letter "p" and ends with the sound of the letter "l". That's right! It's Paul!"). Have children each come up and tack their decorated Kids Shapes Puzzle Piece to the bulletin board next to a corresponding name card you have prepared using index cards or sentence strip segments.

Birthdays

Offer the birthday child a Kids Shapes Puzzle Piece plus a small self-sealing plastic bag full of art supplies (glitter glue tube, stickers a few markers, etc.). Allow the child to decorate the piece for his or her birthday homework and return to class the next day with the finished piece. Add the piece to a bar graph wall display of puzzle pieces indicating which children were born during specific months of the school year. (Variation: Recycle the puzzle pieces prepared for the first day of school display as pieces for this birthday graph display. Build the display at the beginning of the year and refer to it as each new month approaches to see which birthdays will be coming up.)

All About Me (Self-esteem)

- Have children decorate the puzzle pieces as described



- in the Back-to-School activity. Glue a craft-stick "dowel" to the back of each puzzle piece. Place the puzzle pieces into a large empty coffee can. During circle time or sharing time, remove puzzle pieces as a method for calling on children to participate. Place the used pieces into a second empty coffee can.
- Allow children to hold their puzzle pieces (which have been prepared with dowels) and use as "All About Me" puppets while they sing songs and recite poems related to self-esteem.
 - Display the decorated puzzle pieces so they are interlocked together in one jigsaw design. Title the display, "Together We Can Do Anything!"

Literature-based Multicultural Awareness

After sharing a children's book about multicultural awareness, such as the classic, *People* by Peter Spier, (Doubleday, 1980), have children compare and contrast their own skin tones with each other and with different areas on their own bodies (e.g. the outside of the arm with the inside of the arm). Offer children paint chips (free from a local home improvement store) and challenge them to locate a shade that most closely matches their overall skin tone. Have children use multicultural paints to paint their puzzle pieces so they most closely match their own skin tones. Complete the decorating process using markers and/or glued-on clothing scraps. Display pieces as a bulletin board border. Use center of board to display multicultural papers, projects, maps, etc.

100th Day of School

After gluing on a headshot of each child to one of the puzzle pieces, let each child decorate the body of each piece (front and back, if desired—50 decorations each side) with 100 decorations, such as:

- 100 glued-on sequins
- 100 colored glue dots
- 100 pinkie prints (use washable stamp pad)
- 100 marker dots—10 dots in 10 different colors
- 100-crayon color dots—using 100 different-colored crayons

Community Helpers

Talk with children about the clothing and equipment used by community helpers. Have children decorate the puzzle pieces to resemble community helpers of their choice. Display the puzzle pieces together with reports children do about the helpers.