

Dear **Educators**,

The start of the **kindergarten** year is ripe with opportunities for building long-lasting positive school behaviors and attitudes. Time spent building relationships and establishing social and academic expectations can pay dividends all year long.

Using a rich collection of diverse picture books to support this work lays the foundation for a classroom culture of appreciation and acceptance.

The **Building Classroom Community Unit for Kindergarten** consists of eight read alouds. Each lesson is intended for multiple days so that from the beginning students are exposed to close reading and the value of multiple readings. We believe the first eight read alouds, or roughly the first two months of school, are critical to setting the tone of your classroom community, read aloud procedures, and expectations for engagement.

During this unit you will:

- help students connect to one another by discussing things they like and their families
- share goals for the kindergarten year to create a sense of shared purpose
- establish a common vocabulary for discussing emotions, which will support both social and literacy goals
- generate clear, specific expectations for active listening in groups and partnerships, respectful communication, treating one another with kindness, solving problems, and working together as a community of learners

Each lesson may be used as a stand alone, but we hope that using these books as a broad unit will help lay the foundation for a strong classroom community with strong learning expectations. We designed the unit to spiral. Additionally, each lesson and book can be adapted for other grades (and we hope you will do this!).

Book extension activities provide initial opportunities to practice these crucial behaviors, and the resource materials you create will support ongoing focus on these topics.

Here's to a meaningful year of reading!



# Unit Scope and Sequence: Building Classroom Community

Grade: Kindergarten

Time: Eight weeks (one read aloud per week)

Lesson	Book Title	Classroom Behavior Focus*	Social-Emotional Learning Focus*	Activity for Building Classroom Community
1	<i>Gracias~Thanks</i>	Raising our hands to share	Connecting to each other: What we like	Class book: <i>What We Like</i>
2	<i>Quinito, Day and Night/Quinito, día y noche</i>	Active listening to what others share	Connecting to each another: Our families	Class book: <i>Our Families</i>
3	<i>Moony Luna/Luna, Lunita Lunera</i>	Talking with partners	Discussing feelings: Building a common vocabulary	“Feelings Words” list
4	<i>Cora Cooks Pancit</i>	Listening to partners	Connecting to one another: Our goals	Class book or wall display: Our kindergarten goals
5	<i>Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no combina</i>	Respectful communication and using classmates' names	Celebrating individuality	Class book or wall display: Self-portraits and names
6	<i>David's Drawings</i>	Sharing materials and taking turns	Ways to be kind	“Ways to Be Kind” list and group art project
7	<i>Juna's Jar</i>	Managing common problems at school	Problem solving	Scenarios about common kindergarten challenges and what to do
8	<i>Rainbow Stew</i>	Caring for classroom and school environment	Working together	Collaborative task around caring for the school or classroom

\*Will be reviewed in subsequent lessons

