Storytime Activity Guide
School’s First Day of School
by Adam Rex and Christian Robinson

It’s the first day of school and everyone is nervous, especially the Frederick Douglass Elementary school building! At first, things don’t go well—the only things School can concentrate on is all the children complaining about him and making messes at lunch. With some time and help from a teacher, School and the children start to enjoy themselves. They even look forward to doing it all again the next day!

Did you know?
Being nervous about trying something new, getting along with others, and expressing feelings appropriately is all part of Social-Emotional Understanding. When you are sharing this book with your child, pause and ask questions about their own experiences trying something new, like a first day of school. How are these experiences similar to or different from the story?

Talk about it!
- School is nervous because he had never had a first day of school before. Tell me about a time you tried something new and were nervous.
- What did the freckled girl do that made school feel better?
- School talks to the janitor about all his feelings. Who do you talk to when you are nervous or scared?

Play: (activity with no materials)
In the book, the children learn about shapes in their classroom. Use the book to talk about and find shapes! Talk about all the shapes your child knows; try to let your child name the shapes and you can draw them on paper or you can point to them in the book.

1. Turn through the pages in the book and look for as many shapes as you can! If it’s fun, you can keep count of how many of each shape you found.

2. If your child doesn’t know a shape that you see in the book, help identify the shape and explain a little bit about it. For example, “an oval is a shape like a circle, but stretched out, like an egg.”

3. If you want to keep playing, try finding shapes in different books, or wherever you go!

Find More Online
Scan this QR code to find book recommendations, online activity guides, and other fun resources.

Scan this QR code with your phone’s camera to see our Read Aloud of this book!

All resources can be found at: tandembayarea.org
Play some more!

*Materials needed: art materials like drawing paper, crayons, pencils. Older children may use old magazines, scissors, and glue.*

School was a brand new school that was built especially for the children in its neighborhood. School had important things for learning, like classrooms for the children and whiteboards for teachers to write things on. It also had fun things like playgrounds! If your child designed a school, what would it look like?

1. Talk to your child about designing a school; brainstorm all the things the school should have. Think about what the classrooms, lunchroom, and playgrounds would look like. Let your child’s imagination go wild! If they want the school to have a water slide or look like a dragon, that’s great! There are no rules about what the school has to be or look like.

2. Find materials for your child to draw or build their dream school. You can use paper and crayons, cut up old magazines and paste them, or use blocks or old shoe boxes to represent the different parts of the school. Be sure to help supervise if your child chooses to use scissors.

3. Once your child is done designing their dream school, have them tell you all about it! You can start the conversation by simply saying, “Tell me about your school,” and let your child take the lead on sharing.

4. If your child loved this activity, you can continue to encourage them to design more buildings. They can build a house, a neighborhood, a toy store, a theme park—anything they want!