MISSOURI BUILDING BLOCK
PICTURE BOOK AWARD

The Pigeon Has To Go To School!
By Mo Willems
Illustrated by Mo Willems

Related Books:

Dad’s First Day by Mike Wohnoutka
Daniel Goes to School by Becky Friedman
School’s First Day of School by Adam Rex
The First Day of School by Margaret McNamara
Birdie’s First Day of School by Sujean Rim
It’s the First Day of School! by Charles M. Schulz
Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! Words and Pictures by Mo Willems

Finger Play

“Back to School”
Two little houses all closed up tight (make fists)
Open up the windows and let in the light (open fists)
Ten little finger people tall and straight (ten fingers)
Ready for school at half past eight (walk with fingers)

Songs:

“It’s Back to School We Go”
(Tune: “The Farmer in the Dell”)

It’s back to school we go
It’s back to school we go
It’s time to make new preschool friends
It’s back to school we go.

The Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award is sponsored by the Missouri Library Association and administered by the Youth Services Community of Interest. To learn more about MLA or to download more activity sheets, please visit http://molib.org.
“The Shape Song”
(Tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

If you’re holding a square, stand up
If you’re holding a square, stand up
If there’s a square in your hand,
Then it’s time for you to stand.
If you’re holding a square, stand up.

(Repeat using other shapes)

Activities:
Pigeon Puppet – Take a blue paper plate and either glue on a very large googly eye, or draw your own eye on, right in the middle. Add two triangles to the edge as an open beak, and glue or tape a craft stick on the bottom.

Happy To Be Me – On a piece of construction puppet, fill out the following poem for each child.

(color) is my hair
(color) are my eyes
I’m _____ years old
And I’m just the right size.
My name is ______
And as you can see,
I’m very happy to be me!

Use crayons, markers, stickers, etc. to decorate each child’s plaque, commemorating their first day of school, or story time, etc.

Color the Bus – Give every child a graham cracker square, and use yellow icing to paint the bus. Using chocolate candies and other edibles to create a school bus, and talk about how to ride the school bus, and what is expected when you are on board.

The Pigeon Has Feelings – The Pigeon experiences a lot of feelings in this book, and the younger children can help mimic the expressions that he is feeling. Try to show me a scared face! Try to show me an angry face! What does a happy face look like?