

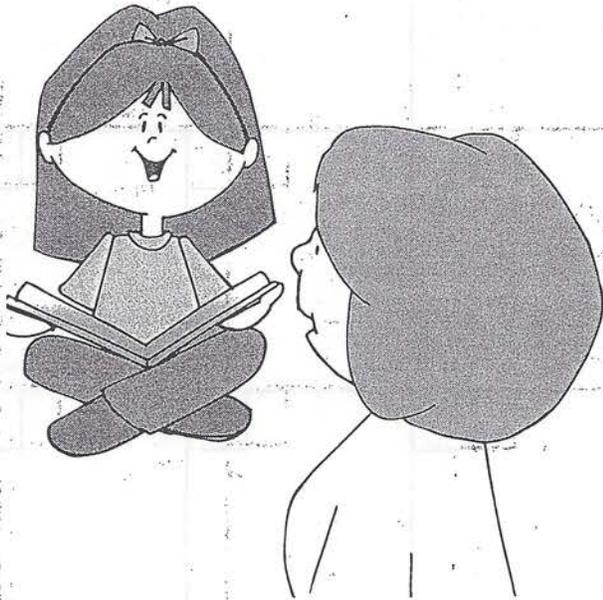
# Reduce Wait Time

Several times throughout the day children must go from one place to another. These times, if not well planned, can cause confusion, make children wait and encourage misbehavior. Make the children responsible so the teacher does not have to take control. Use these strategies:

## Schedules

Post the schedule so children know what to do now, next and throughout the day. The schedule may change throughout the year, especially during the first few weeks.

Name					
Alisa					
Jose					
Ruth					
Mike					
Tanisha					
Jana					
Jill					
Tim					



## Movement

Make cues to move from one activity to the next clear, whether children are allowed to move freely or only when scheduled.

## Monitoring Work

Be able to know at a glance whether everyone is working successfully on task or if someone needs assistance.

## Preparation for Today

Children should be prepared for what is going to happen during the day. Preparation can be accomplished by discussing the previous day, "enter and check," bulletin board, sharing table and class opening.

## Preparation for Tomorrow

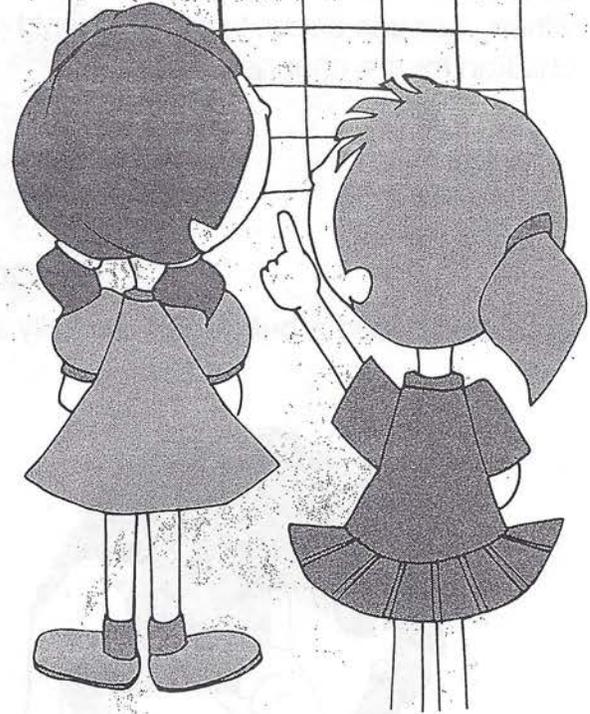
Prepare children for tomorrow at the end of today. This helps students get excited about what is planned for tomorrow. Use the experience cards to show what they have done today. Then rearrange the cards for tomorrow as part of today's closing activities. This also helps children answer the question, "What did you do in school today?"

## Working Partnerships

Allow children to work closely with others, in small groups or independently. As time goes along their ability to do each should improve. However, they may favor one type of working relationship over another.



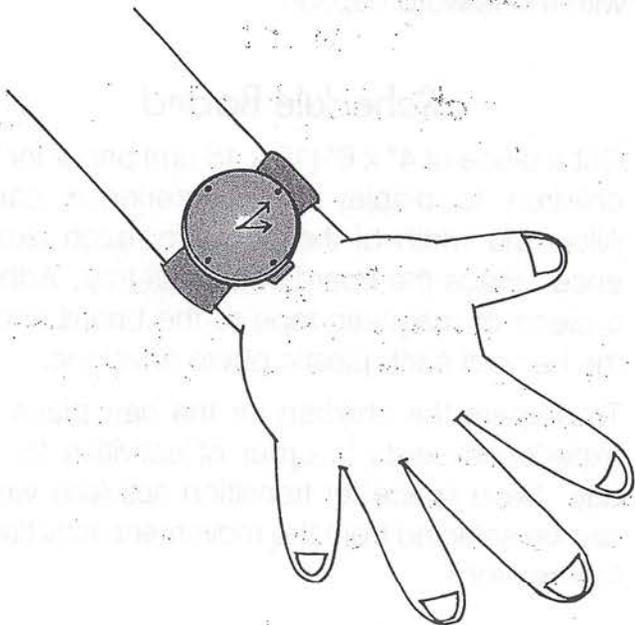
NAME				



## Schedule Ideas

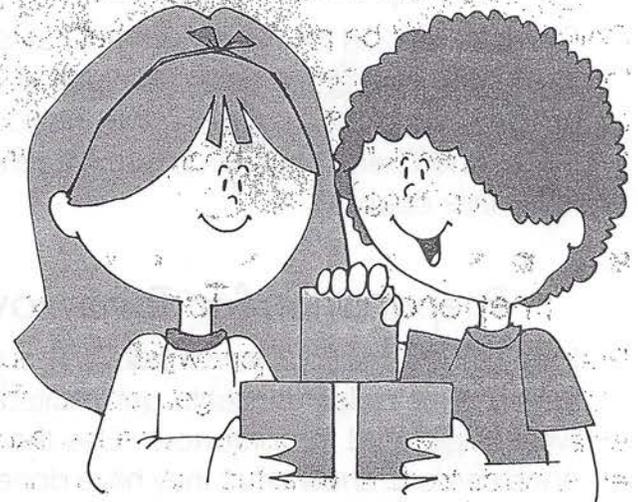
### Scheduling Time

Young children need uninterrupted times for meaningful work experiences. Clumps of work time should be provided that are 45 to 60 minutes in length with some free choice activities within that time. This allows children time to practice things they already know how to do and to meet mentally and physically challenging activities in a safe and supportive environment. Children should also have some say about the amount of time they spend on activities. If necessary, allow children to continue activities from one time to the next and even one day to the next.



### Consistency in Schedules

Young children require stability within their environment. They need some consistency in their schedules. Schedules need to be predictable. When changes occur, teachers should prepare children for the changes.



### Balance in Schedules

Schedules need a balance of mentally active times, physically active times and quiet times.



### Experience Cards

Illustrated cards are on pages 34 to 39 or you may wish to photograph children engaged in various experiences in your classroom: puzzles, dramatic play, blocks, construction, art, easel, reading, spelling, math, music, physical education, health, social studies, library, language, writing, etc. Place the photographs in plastic snapshot covers and label each photo with a one-word caption.

### Schedule Board

Cut a piece of 4" x 6" (10 x 15 cm) paper for the children to display their experience cards. Allow the width of the photo for each experience. Place the board in a chalk tray. Adhere a piece of magnetic tape to the board and to the back of each plastic photo envelope.

To prepare the children for the day, place the experience cards in order of activities for the day. Save space for transition activities which can be selected from the movement activities in this section.

## In the News

Cover a bulletin board with old newspapers. Write *In the News* at the top. Post important school events on the bulletin board in ways that your children can "read" them.



## Sharing Table

Have a special spot where children can place work they have finished or special things they want to show others. Children may check the table periodically during the week.

## Enter and Check

As children enter the classroom, they check the schedule board for the day's activities. By using this method, students enter the class, do the basic preparation activities and get right to work. The large group times can be scheduled later in the day when it is necessary to fill in some time.

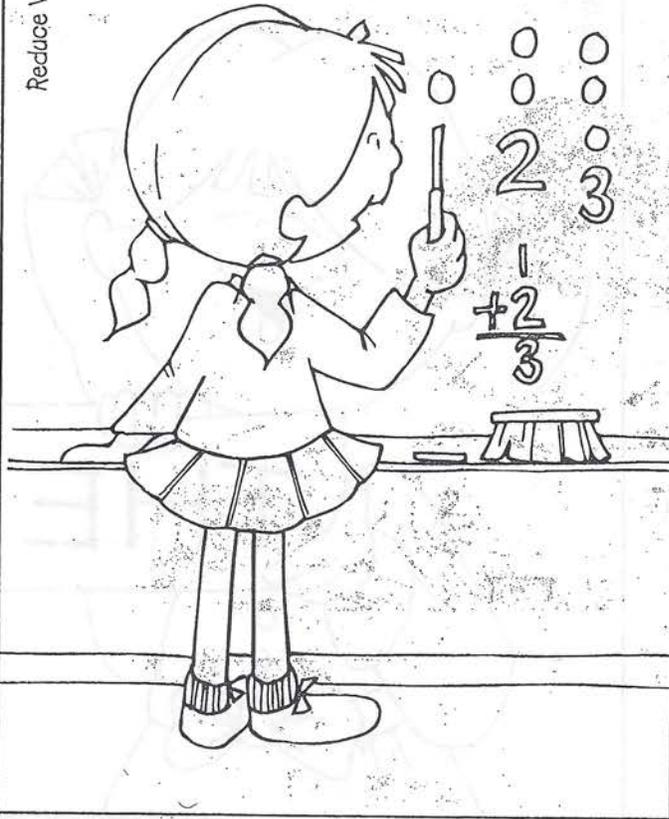
## Class Opening

Many people feel it is important to gather children together first thing in the morning for opening "exercises." But these "exercises" require very little movement from children. In fact, they require children to sit next to each other, not talk, be still and listen (all of which go against the grain of most children when they return to their classmates each day). This time should be limited and should also require as much participation of each child as possible. Eliminate most calendar helpers, weather helpers, attendance counters, etc., where one child is active while the other 10 to 20 sit waiting. (Remember that wait time only leads to misbehavior.)

Welcome children to school ("I'm so glad to see you all today.") and tell them they are going to have a great time ("We are going to be working on some very exciting things today.") Tell them what special things are planned ("Today is the day we go to the library for animal books.") and how the day's events will occur ("And you can tell by the schedule board what the day looks like. Read it with me.")

Reduce Wait Time

# Math



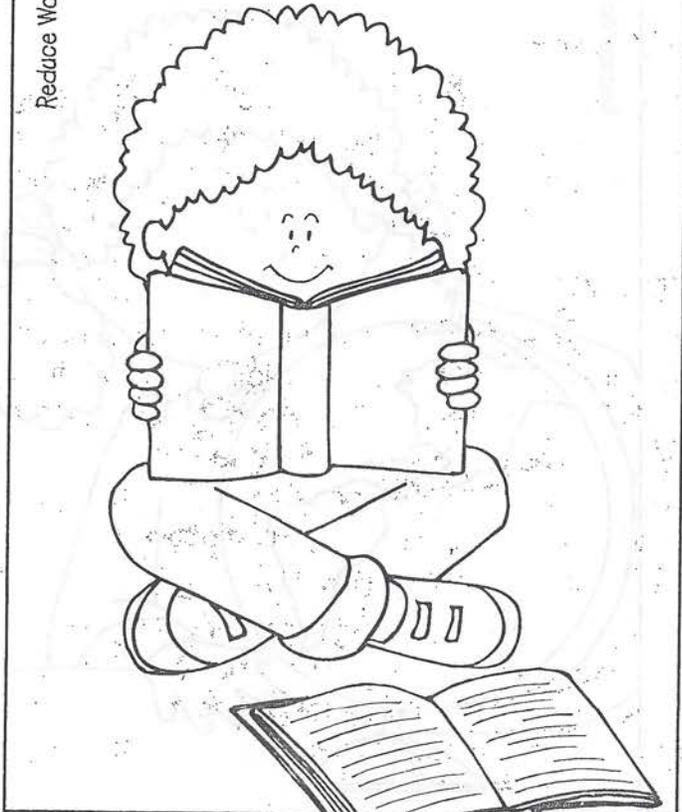
Reduce Wait Time

# Science



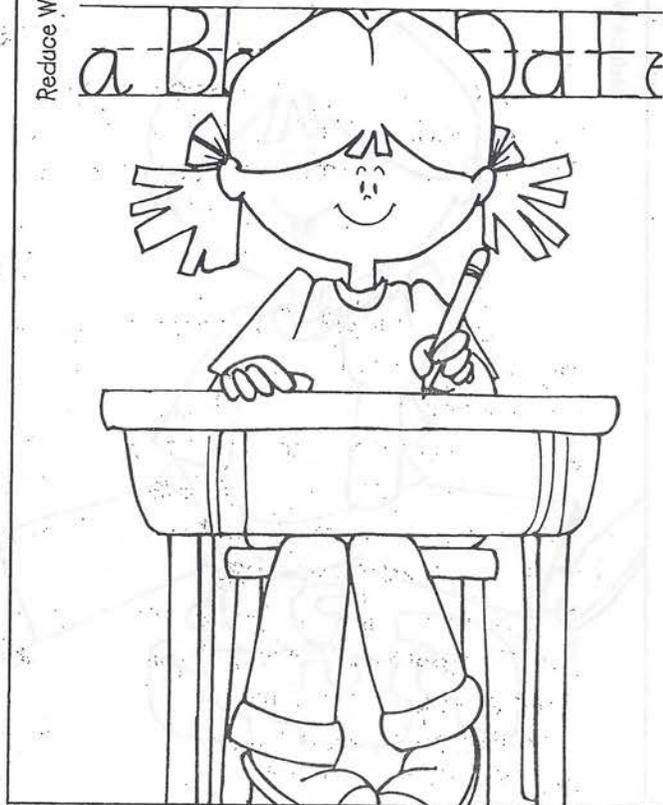
Reduce Wait Time

# Reading



Reduce Wait Time

# Writing



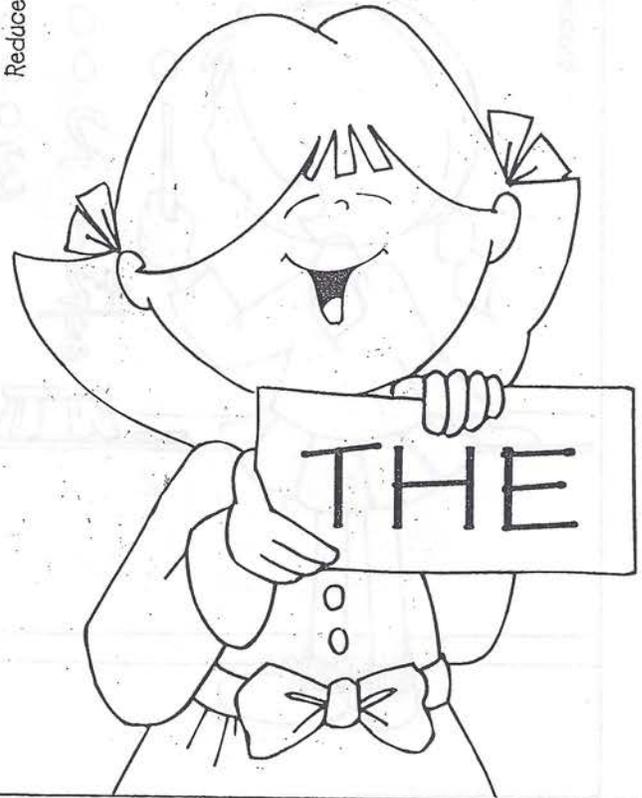
Reduce Wait Time

# Listening Center



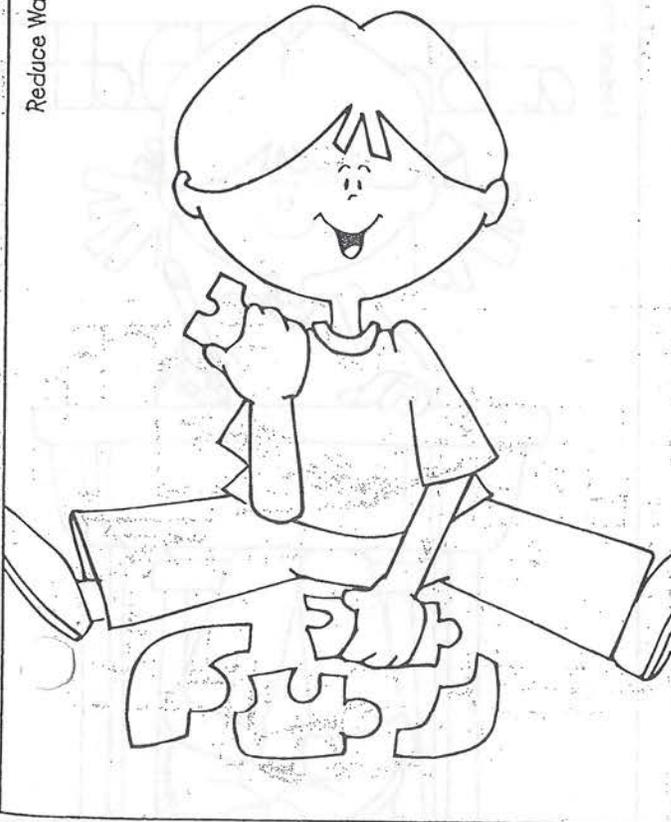
Reduce Wait Time

# Language Arts



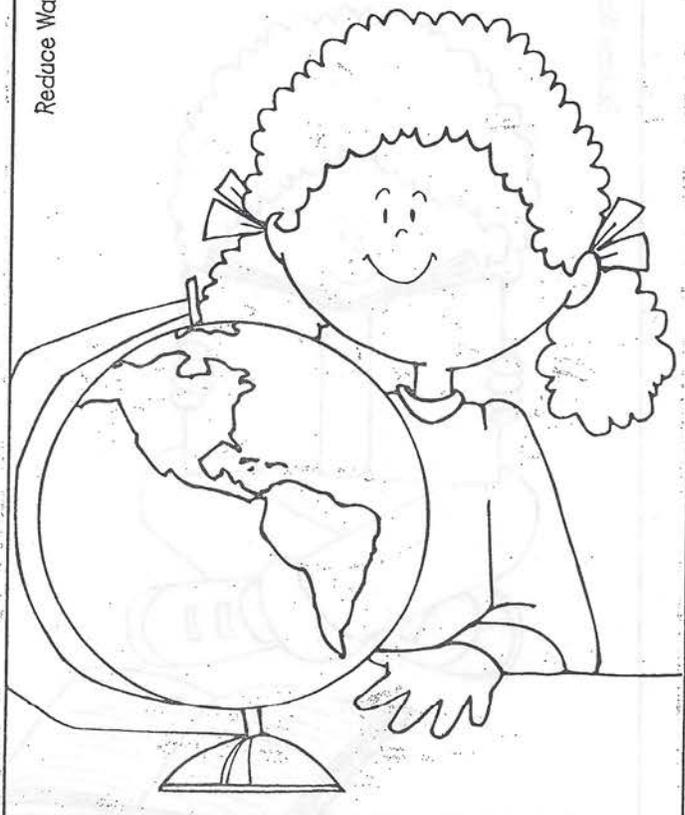
Reduce Wait Time

# Puzzles



Reduce Wait Time

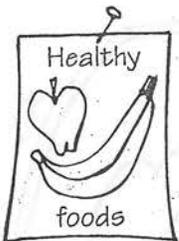
# Social Studies



Reduce Wait Time--Experience Cards

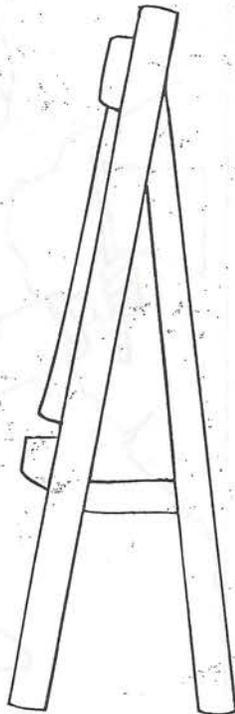
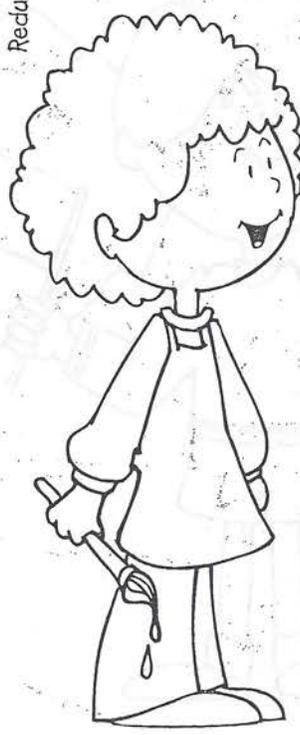
Reduce Wait Time

# Health



Reduce Wait Time

# Art



Reduce Wait Time

# Music



Reduce Wait Time

# Library



Reduce Wait Time

# Foreign Language



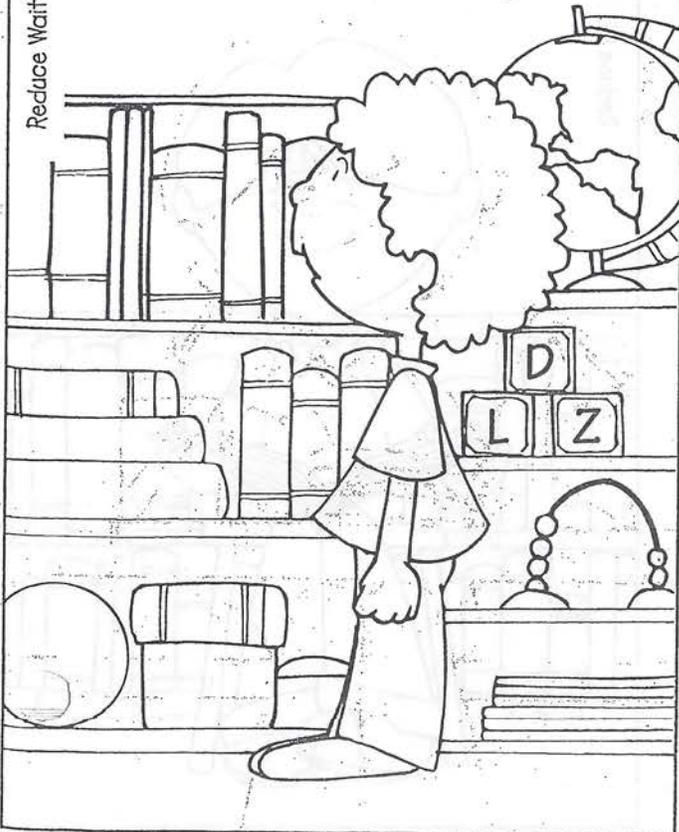
Reduce Wait Time

# Gross Motor Center



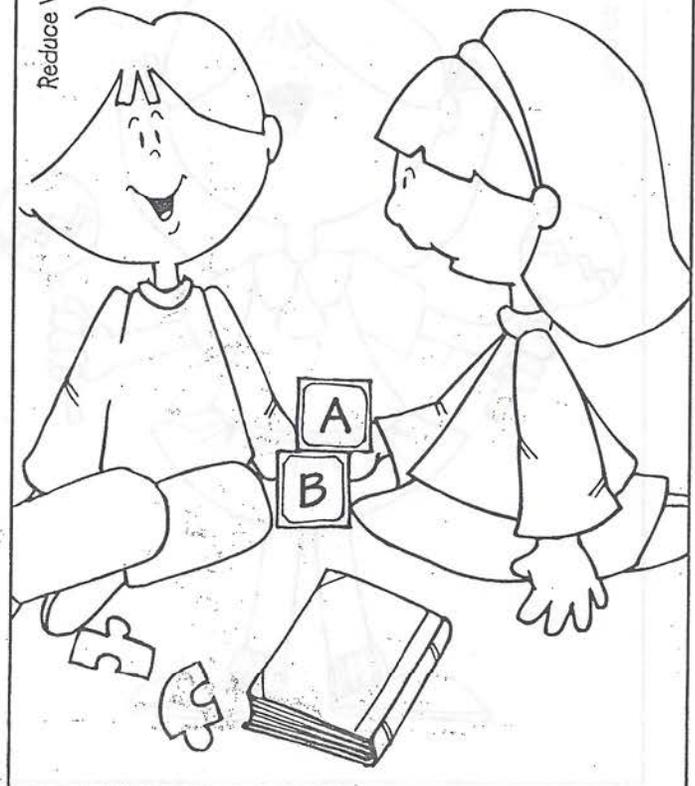
Reduce Wait Time

# Centers



Reduce Wait Time

# Free Choice

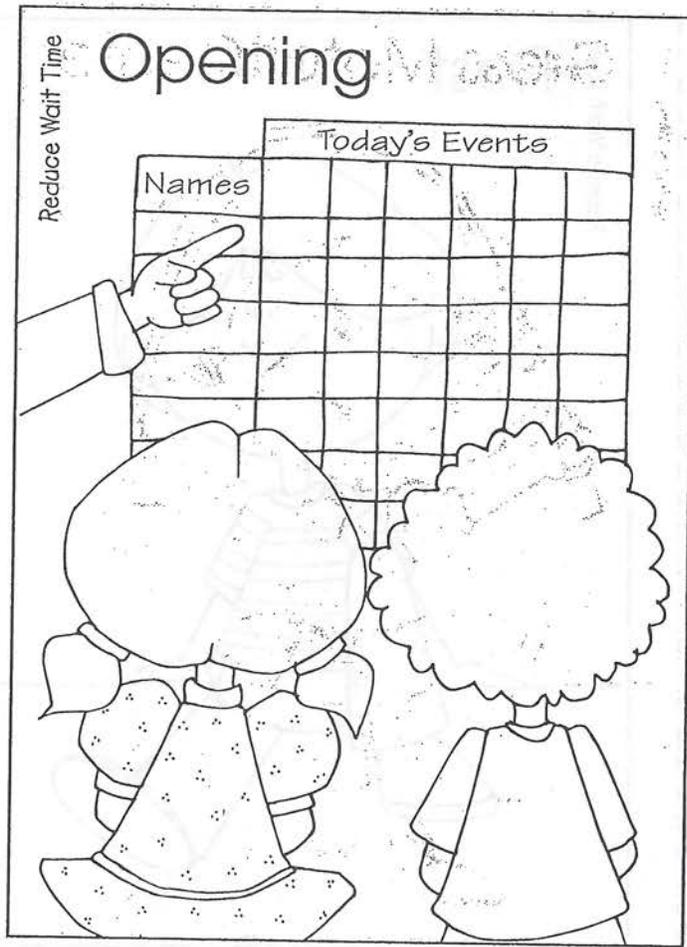


Reduce Wait Time

# Opening

Today's Events

Names					

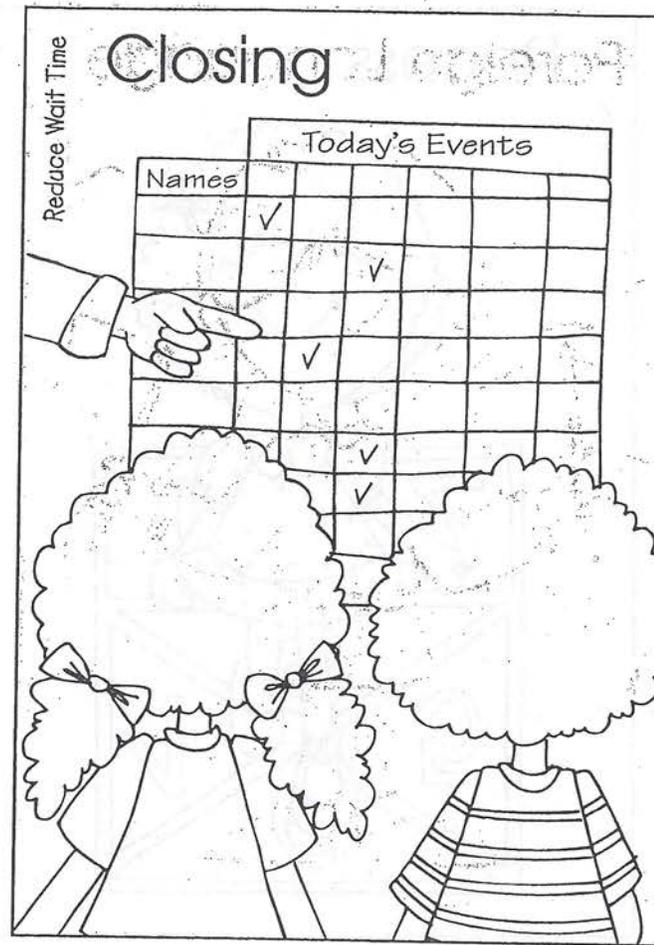


Reduce Wait Time

# Closing

Today's Events

Names					
	✓				
		✓			
			✓		
				✓	
					✓

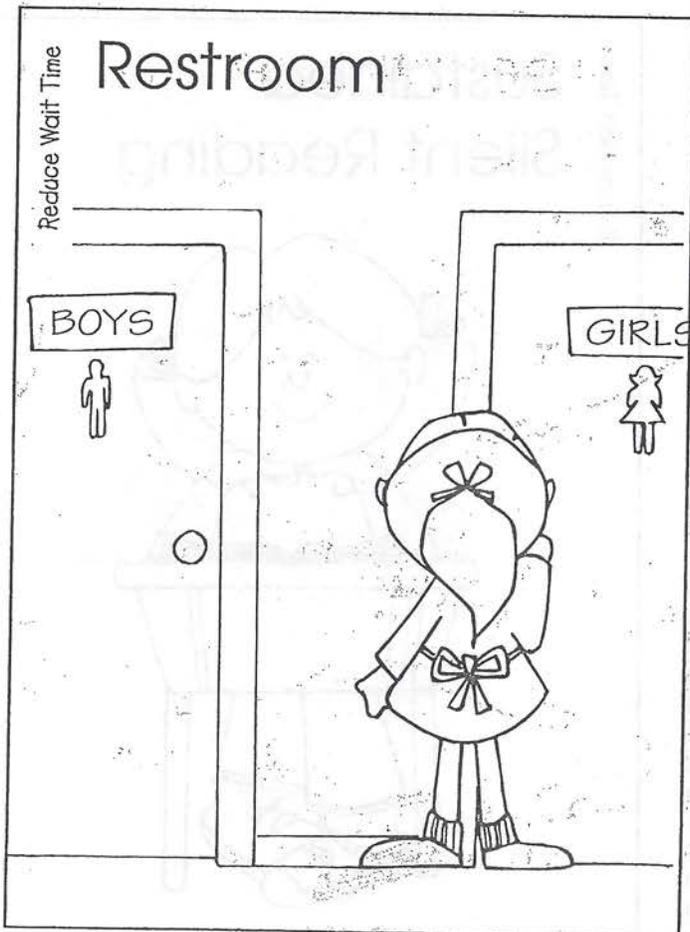


Reduce Wait Time

# Restroom

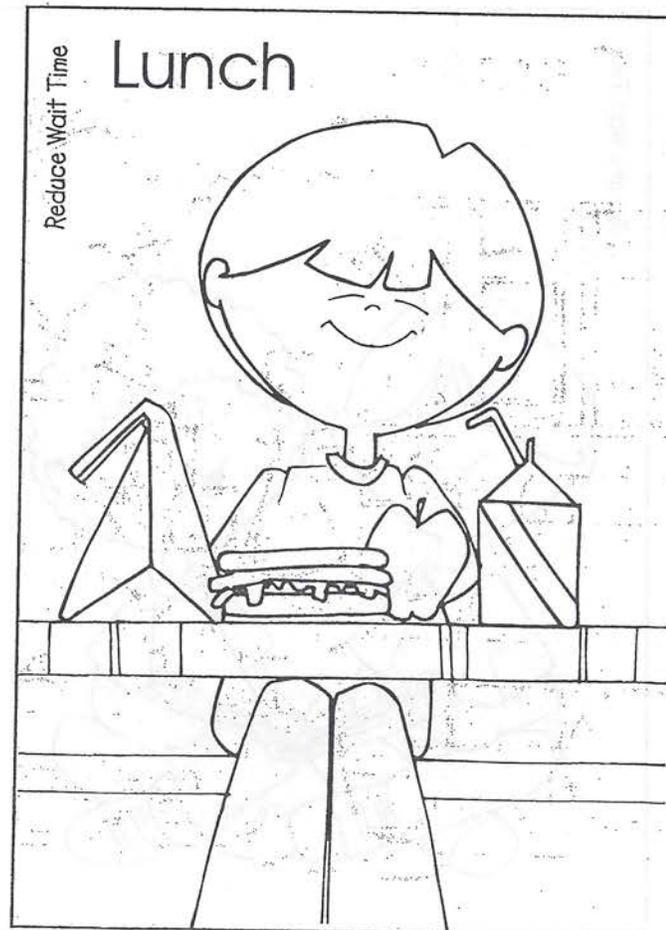
BOYS

GIRLS



Reduce Wait Time

# Lunch



Reduce Wait Time

# Recess



Reduce Wait Time

# Rest

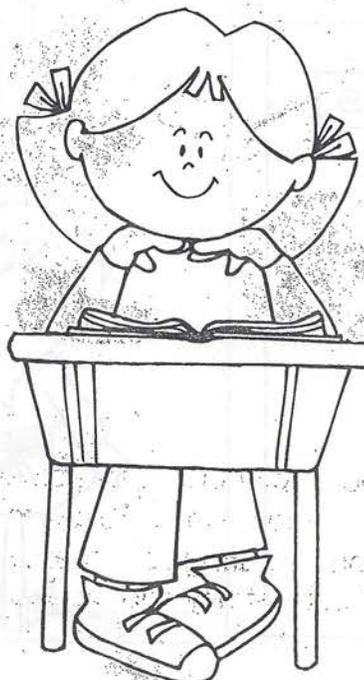


Reduce Wait Time

# Sustained Silent Reading



Reduce Wait Time



Reduce Wait Time-Experience Cards