

This file is an excerpt of Carla & Liv KIDS Flagship Book: School Is New To Me

For the full version please visit the Carla & Liv KIDS Webstore to purchase.

Webstore: www.CarlaandLivKids.com

To My Family

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

– Theodore Roosevelt

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Carla & Liv KIDS

Help for New Students & Parents

From Carla Taylor-Pla, Author • Founder of Carla & Liv KIDS™



Experiencing school and the opportunities it creates is such a rewarding adventure. While attending a new school is exciting and fun, it also can be unnerving for children. Regardless of whether a child has never gone to school, or has attended preschool and is about to enter kindergarten, they share similar concerns: “Will I be all right at school?” and “What will I do there?.” All they know is they will be dropped off in a classroom and left by us. Often we leave them with no idea of what to expect.

It’s like you or I showing up for a new job without being told our job description!

It’s not hard to understand that children, like us, need to know what to expect in order to feel comfortable and excel. That is exactly why I created this book.

After several days of my daughter “Liv” crying when I dropped her off at preschool, a teacher recommended I take photos of the school and discuss them at home with my daughter. I did it the next day, desperate to help Liv feel better. The strategy worked! The crying subsided to a whimper for two days – and then stopped altogether. That’s how the idea for **School is New to Me: A Beginner’s Guide to Starting School** was born. I spent several years honing this original concept into the current book to help other children meet the challenge of starting school.

School is New to Me: A Beginner’s Guide to Starting School shows children what to expect from school – and encourages family discussions about this new experience. The ideas presented in this book have been evaluated by parents, teachers, and my toughest critics -- children. As a result, I’ve been able to capture what works.

I hope my book will help your child, as it did mine, embrace the new experience of school.




Why this Book Works

(Patent Pending)

- ④ **Gives children a “game-plan” for school** - This book actually *shows* your child what to expect from school with photos of *real kids* engaged in typical school-like activities. Short descriptions of these activities and interactive exercises help familiarize your little one with school routines.

- ④ **Helps parents prepare their children for school** - The “**Parent’s Tips**” on each page include:
 - ✓ Ideas to help your child start school more at ease and ready to learn;
 - ✓ Recommendations to help you discuss school activities with your child in a manner that gives accurate and positive impressions of school;
 - ✓ Suggestions for fun activities to prepare your little scholar for school.

For additional Parent’s Tips and information, visit www.CarlaandLivKids.com.

- ④ **Prompts children and parents to discuss school** - Designated pages with a  symbol in the upper left-hand corner provide fun activities that encourage communication about school.

- ④ **Encourages children to share their school experiences** – I created *My School Journal* for your child to express his own school experiences in words and pictures. Use it in combination with ***School is New to Me: A Beginner’s Guide to Starting School*** to help give your child a strong foundation in early learning. Download *My School Journal* from our Web site: www.CarlaandLivKids.com. *My School Journal* can be used throughout the year to help build literacy and other skills.

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL.

You may be excited and a little nervous about starting school. We were too.



But, we're going to show you that school is a lot of fun.

Parent's Tips

Before the first day of school, take your child on a tour of his new classroom and school to help ease the transition to the new environment. Don't forget to visit the playground too, so your child can associate school with fun and feel more comfortable.

OUR TEACHER

This is my teacher, Ms. Kelley. She is very nice! She answers my questions, teaches me how to do new things, and helps me too.



What is your teacher's name?

Parent's Tips

Try to arrange a time for you and your child to meet her teacher before school starts. Many schools have orientations for parents/caregivers and new students to provide an opportunity to meet teachers and staff.

OUR CLASSROOM

Every morning you'll meet your teacher and other children in your classroom.

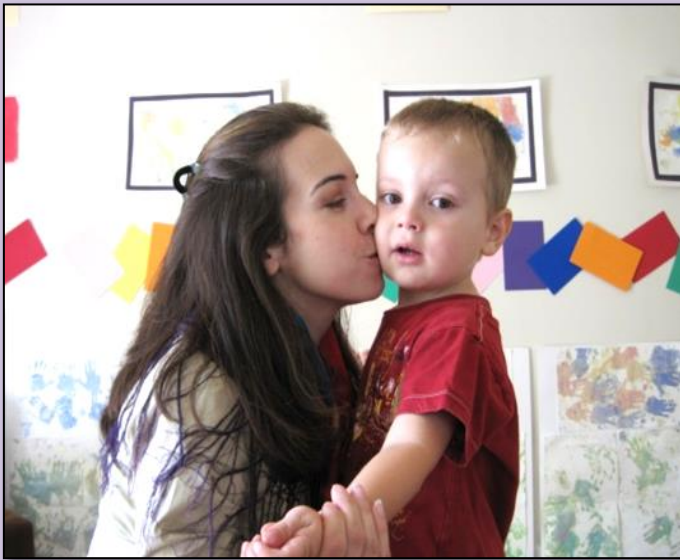


Parent's Tips

When you and your child visit the classroom for the first time, explore it together. You also can discuss these photos: "What are the students and teacher doing?"; Who made the artwork on the walls?." This will help familiarize your child with a typical classroom setting.

"SEE YOU LATER, 'ALLIGATOR'."

In the morning, your parent or babysitter will drop you off at school. Don't worry! You'll get picked up when school is over.



Parent's Tips

Many young children initially experience separation anxiety when they're dropped off at school for the first few days or weeks. Assure your child that you (or a designated caregiver) will be back to pick up him/her at the end of the school day. Resist the urge to prolong goodbyes: The sooner you leave, the sooner your child can become engaged in other activities.

Carla Taylor-Pla, Author
Founder, Carla & Liv KIDS™



As a working mother, Carla's daughter is the inspiration for the **School is New to Me** activity book series and the **Carla & Liv KIDS™** company. Carla has worked to improve educational opportunities for children as a policy advocate for high quality early childhood education. She also served on the leadership team that launched the educational programming brand, PBS KIDS, for **Public Broadcasting Service**. More recently, Carla worked for **The Washington Post** as Manager of Advertising Promotions. She holds a BA from **Yale University**, an M.S. in Journalism from **Northwestern University (Medill School of Journalism)**, and an MBA from **American University**.



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