



## Classroom Friends' Puzzles



Puzzles &  
Manipulatives

### Standards:

ELA.RF.PWR.PS.1 - 3  
CA.VA.PS.1 - 3  
PHD.FM.PS.1, 5, 6



### Materials:

- *A Letter to Amy*
- *The Little Red Hen Makes A Pizza*
- poster or tag board
- laminated photographs of children in the classroom
- Ziploc bags
- basket or box to store puzzles
- trays

### Vocabulary:

- piece
- solve
- puzzle
- match

**Preparation:** Mount pictures of children on poster or tag board. Write children's names beneath their pictures. Laminate and cut pictures into puzzle pieces. Store in labeled Ziploc bags. Write each child's initials on the back of the pieces that correspond with his/her puzzle to make sorting them back into the correct bag easier. Use trays to define children's work space.

### Intro to Centers:

““In *The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*, the hen and her friends enjoyed eating pizza together. In *A Letter to Amy*, Peter's friends helped him celebrate his birthday. What do you notice?”

“What are some things you enjoy doing with friends?”

“Today there are new **puzzles** in Puzzles and Manipulatives. The **puzzles** are in these Ziploc bags. What do you notice?”

“When I **solved** this **puzzle**- put all the **pieces** together-, I made a picture of \_\_\_\_! The picture matches the name on the Ziploc bag.”

“When you are done with your **puzzle**, make sure you put the **pieces** in the bag with the correct name.”

*Show illustrations. Children respond.*

*Children respond.*

*Show bags. Children respond.*

*Children respond.*

*Model.*

**During Centers:** Support children in their puzzle-solving strategies, i.e., if they put all the edge pieces together first. Have a range of number of puzzle pieces, i.e., some puzzles with five piece, some with seven, etc. to match children's level of challenge. Encourage children to count the number of pieces in the puzzles.

**Guiding Questions during Centers:**

- How did you find your/your friend's puzzle?
- What kinds of things do you like to do with this friend/these friends?
- What is \_\_\_\_\_ doing in this picture? How do you think he/she is feeling here?
- How did you solve your puzzle?

**Thinking & Feedback:** Invite children to share their processes. Encourage children to describe the challenges they might have encountered.

**Documentation:** Take photographs of children during the activity and display them with captions of the children's words describing their process.

**Provocation:** Encourage children to tell and write stories about their friends. Rotate Classroom Friends Puzzles with other classroom puzzles.

