



Education stories for children's time

2026

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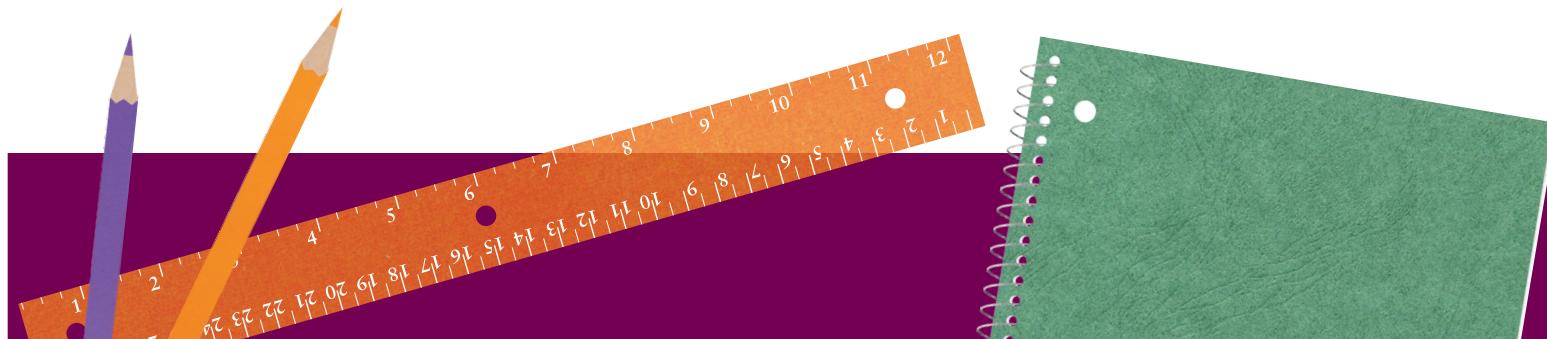
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Lesson 1: Getting a head start through preschool

Do you remember when you first started counting and learning your letters? Who taught these things to you? How many of you first learned numbers or letters with your mom or dad? Brothers or sisters? Teachers in preschool or kindergarten?

MCC is helping kids like you go to school and learn! Over the next few weeks, we'll look at some of the ways that, by collecting coins through My Coins Count, you're helping children around the world get ready for successful futures.

Once we know our letters and numbers, it's so much easier to learn everything else there is to know in this world. For example, counting lets us keep score when playing sports, or know when to play musical notes. And as we build reading skills, we can read more books about all kinds of cool things.

That's a big reason why preschool is so important — it's a great place for children to practice their ABCs and 1-2-3s, so they can build even more skills in the future.

Pass around Lesson 1 photo or project on a screen.

MCC supports a number of preschools in India that help to make sure that young kids learn their letters, numbers and all the things they'll need to be ready for grade school.

So, let's work together to help kids around the world have what they need to learn, grow and thrive. We can make a difference in the world!



Lesson 1



India

Lesson 1



Lesson 1 photos: Background information

Photo 1: Ritisha Bar writes on the blackboard, as instructed by her teacher, during a typical school day at the Kishalaya Preschool Education Center in the Ucchepota neighborhood of Kolkata, West Bengal state, India. The school is run by MCC partner Development Action Society (DAS). (MCC photo/Arup Ghose)

Photo 2: Students participate in a lesson at the Bantala Early Childhood Care & Education Center, a preschool on the outskirts of Kolkata supported by DAS. (MCC photo/Les Gustafson-Zook)



Lesson 2: Learning to read

This year, through My Coins Count, you can help kids around the world get a good education. One of the important parts of education is learning how to read.

Hold up two clear plastic cups or resealable bags – one labeled “salt,” with a bit of table salt, the other labeled “sugar” and filled with a bit of white, granular sugar.

Imagine that you’re baking cookies. The recipe calls for a lot of sugar, but just a pinch of salt. Who can tell me which of these is sugar and which is salt? How did you know?

Reading labels can help us tell them apart. But imagine if you couldn’t read. You might end up with super-salty cookies that nobody wants to eat! How would that make you feel?

Now, imagine that you’re a farmer, and you’ve spent all season tending your crops. Imagine that you have two similar-looking containers, labeled “fertilizer” and “weed killer,” but you can’t read. This happened to a farmer in Mexico several years ago. Unfortunately, he applied weed killer to his field when he wanted fertilizer, and all of the crops died.

There are plenty of things that become harder when you can’t read – finding your way around a new city, for instance, or knowing all the rules your school has in place.

And sometimes the language that children learn to speak and read at home is not the language that their teachers use in school.

Pass around Lesson 2 photo or project on screen.



Lesson 2

Lesson 2: Learning to read, continued

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MCC and local churches are helping families who had to move to a different part of the country because of fighting. Their work includes various forms of help for students like Muhima Kasao, pictured reading a book in the top photo, and Bulonza Amina, who is standing to her mom's right in the bottom photo.

Muhima Kasao, who is 10 years old and in the fourth grade, received help buying things like uniforms and books. At Muhima's old school, teachers and students spoke a local language, but at the new school, people mostly speak French. Having French books to take home and practice with has been a big help in learning the language, doing well in school and making new friends!

There are important reasons why kids around the world want to learn how to read. When you give coins to My Coins Count, you are making a difference in the world in so many ways!

Lesson 2



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Lesson 2



Lesson 2 photos: Background information

Photo 1: Muhima Kasao, age 10, reads a new textbook that was distributed to students at Rutchunda primary school, Minova, Democratic Republic of the Congo. (ECC MERU photo/Prince Mangala)

Photo 2: Bahati Kamara Chance, center, whose family has been displaced by war, checks her daughter Bulonza Amina's notebook before Bulonza and Nelly Kabumba, left, go off to school. Chance continually checks her daughter's grades. (CFGGB/Esther Nsapu)



Lesson 3: Learning about numbers

This year, money from My Coins Count is going toward helping kids get a good education. A very important part of education is learning how to count and do math.

Have you ever thought about what happens when you aren't able to do math? When you buy a bag of candy, how do you figure out how much you have to pay? How do you know that you've gotten the correct change back? If you are splitting the candies with your friend, how do you split them evenly?

As kids become teenagers and then adults, it becomes more and more important to have a good grasp on numbers. A business owner who doesn't know how much money they have may spend too much and then have to close up shop. Someone who borrows money for a house or college tuition may end up owing way more to their bank than they thought they would. Knowing math helps protect families and businesses in so many different ways.

Pass around Lesson 3 photo or project on screen. In Ethiopia, MCC works with an organization that ensures that orphans, and other children facing big challenges, can get a good education. Teachers are sure to make their lessons fun and interactive, using tools like the puzzle in this photo. This is 5-year-old Befikir Tegegen, and here she is displaying her counting skills to the rest of the class.

When kids learn to count, they learn how to take care of themselves, so that one day, they can help take care of their families and look out for their neighbors. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of kids by helping them learn important skills like math.

Lesson 3



Ethiopia

Lesson 3



Lesson 3 photo: Background information

Befikir Tegegen, age 5, demonstrates her ability to count to her class, using a number puzzle. Interactive learning materials are central to the child-centered learning approach of the kindergarten, which is operated by MCC partner Remember the Poorest Community. (MCC photo/Paul Mosley)



Lesson 3

Lesson 4: Supplies to help teachers to teach and kids to learn

This year, money given through My Coins Count will go toward helping kids get a good education. So far, we've talked about working with preschoolers and teaching kids of all ages to read and do math.

Today we want to talk about some other things that help kids get a good education.

Sometimes, kids don't have food at their houses to eat for breakfast or pack for lunch. If you've ever been really, really hungry, you might remember how hard it is to focus on what you're doing. Many schools that MCC works with serve meals, so kids can have food in their bellies as they learn their lessons.

Another thing that MCC helps with is making sure that teachers have the materials and skills they need to really reach students. Going to trainings and sharing ideas with other teachers helps them learn new ways to plan lessons, stay up to date with new technology and help students who are having a hard time.

So, My Coins Count money also can go to purchase supplies to help students learn better, and pay for trainings for teachers. **Pass around Lesson 4 photo or display on screen.** In rural Guatemala, MCC helps support schools in Indigenous communities by providing school supplies for students, and things like internet access and printers for classrooms. MCC also makes sure that teachers have what they need to sit down one-on-one with students who need a little extra help.

Your coins are helping kids get the education they need to make their dreams come true. Thank you for making a difference in the world.



Lesson 4



Guatemala

Lesson 4



Lesson 4 photo: Background information

MCC partner Asociación Nuevo Amanecer de Santiago Atitlán (ANADESA) supports educational reinforcement programming for Indigenous Tz'utujil children and youth in rural Guatemala. In this photo, teacher Jessica Johana Cuá Pablo provides personalized attention to student Nicolas Samuel Pospoy Damián (age 15) in the village of Chukmuk. (ANADESA photo/Víctor Emanuel Choy Ajtujal)



Appendix: Multimedia stories

YouTube and TikTok videos on MCC education projects:

School kits in Ethiopia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyP-4ZzOdjg>

Multilingual preschools prepare Indigenous children in Bangladesh for school

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XNsnTlkn-w&list=PLOLHveN-nT5Qec9CWlc4-6npmBXxTHsRkT&index=3>

School Kit Unboxing with Mary in South Sudan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO7NOs7Qrv8>

Supporting early education for kids in India

<https://www.tiktok.com/@mccpeace/photo/7558531151602781470>

“The wheel on the bus” at Samuelito day care in Bolivia

<https://www.tiktok.com/@mccpeace/video/7377007142202543402>

My Coins Count Song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4rV2cI0LJA>

