

Reggie Is Back At School

A Social Story For Families to Help
Young Children Prepare
For Return to School



by Janet Lane
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Reggie and his family have been home for a lot of weeks because of a new virus. He hasn't seen his friend Eric that whole time but he talks to him on the phone when he has a question about cars.

While his family was home together Reggie made cookies with Mom, he did all his puzzles, he took a lot of long walks, and played with cars in the living room. He didn't go to the grocery store, and the local playground was closed.

Reggie liked being with his mom and cooking. He got tired of his same old toys and puzzles. He was looking forward to being with his friends.



Mom and Dad are now back to work and Reggie has just gone back to his Learning Center. He was ready to see other kids again, but he had lot of questions before he went back:

“Mom, what will Learning Center be like?,” he asked

“Will Eric be there?

Did they keep the slide?

Will my favorite toys still be there?”

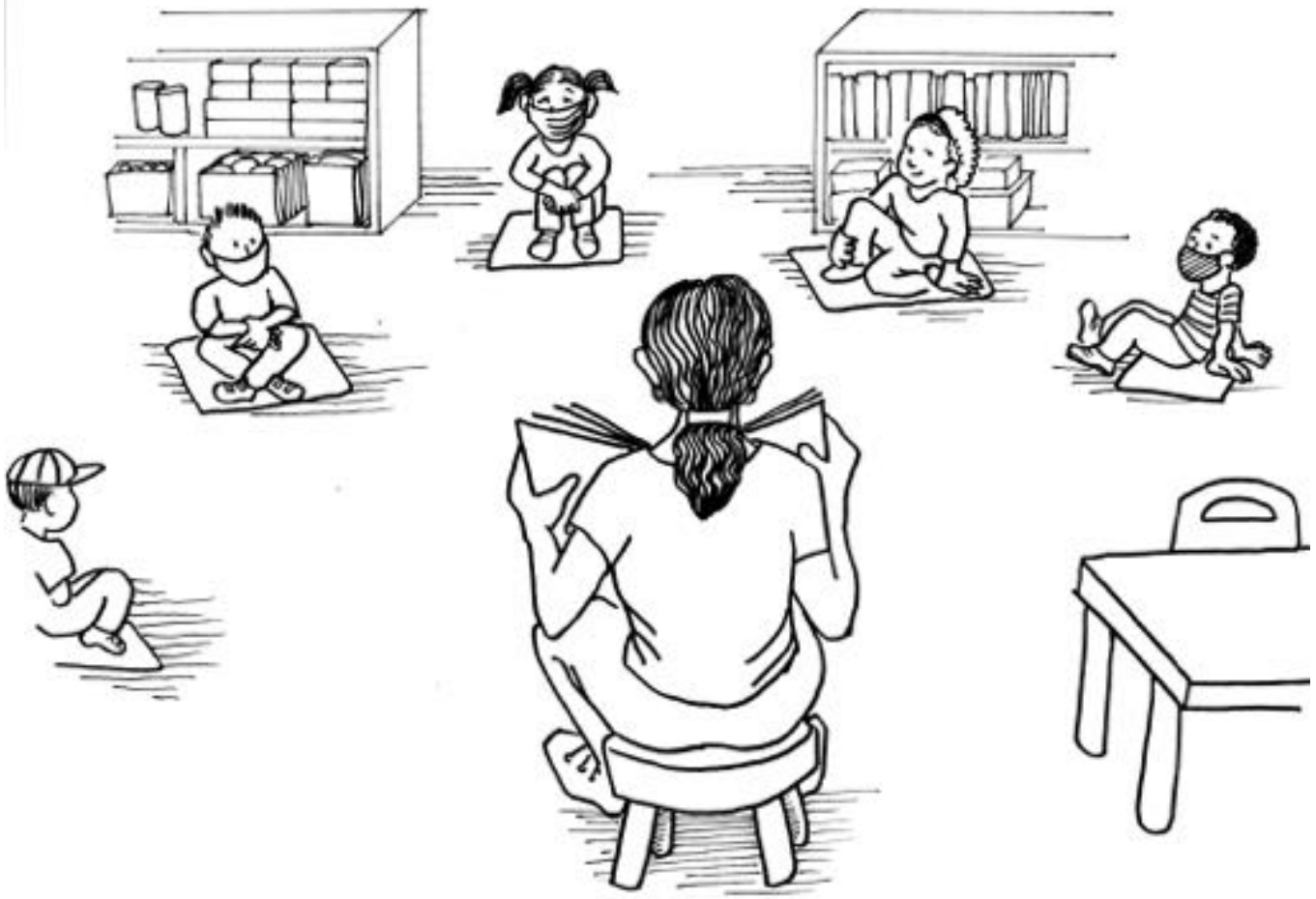


Mom said: “This is what I know: “

“Your teacher, Ms. Josie, will be there. You will find old friends and new friends. There will be old games and new games and the same playground in back. I have questions too, and we will work through our questions together”.



On the first day back to Learning Center Ms. Josie gave him a new “butterfly wave” hello at the door. Ms. Josie wore a badge on her shirt that had a picture of her face, and a mask over her mouth that had butterflies on it. Reggie brought his same lunch box and his lovie, but they were stored on a new shelf. There were 5 kids the first day and Reggie knew two of them. Eric stayed home.



There was a new table in the room and the chairs were all spread out. Ms. Josie moved the old table to make more room for circle-time and put out little squares for each person to sit on. They sat far apart.

Some of the kids wore masks and some didn't.

Families each decide about masks and about what to bring for lunch.



Ms. Josie sang the alphabet song at hand washing time to help kids scrub long enough at the sink until they saw bubbles and the song was finished.

There was a second grown up named Mr. Joe, who read a story to the kids whose hands were clean while they waited for the rest of the kids to finish.

You had to stand on a piece of tape if you wanted to hear the story. Reggie stood on a piece of purple tape. Mr. Joe said he'd read a different book the next time they were in a line.



Reggie had to wash his hands before playground time (he made LOTS of bubbles). He got to play outside for a LONG time and the slide was great when it was his turn to play in that area.

When he came inside he washed his hands to get ready for lunch. Everyone sat far apart but they could talk.

He was SO hungry!



After lunch nap time mats were really spread out and no one wore a mask while sleeping. After nap and bathroom time everyone got to choose between working on an activity on their own tray, or looking at a book.

Reggie worked with Lego® bricks and built a castle. When it was time to switch activities Ms. Josie put new Lego® pieces out for the next kids. All the pieces Reggie used were put in a bucket so they could get washed at the end of the day.

Reggie wished he could read a train book with Eric.



On the second day, Ms. Josie made a “dot wave” when Reggie came thru the door and she wore a red spotty mask.

There were two new kids at school. One of them, Nikki, was really good at puzzles. She had a mask with rockets on it and could count backwards for a rocket blastoff.

Another kid, Andre, was really quiet and a fast runner, and whispered to Reggie that he was good at finding frogs. Ms. Josie had them make pictures from dots.

Eric stayed home.



On the third day, Ms. Josie did a “rabbit wave” at the door, and she wore a plain brown mask. She stapled a pompom on the elastic behind her head and said it was a rabbit mask, because they were going to walk around the school and look for rabbits in the grass.

Everyone walked thru the backyard of Learning Center. Andre found a rabbit under a bush and Nikki showed everyone how she can wiggle her nose.

Reggie was glad to find carrots in his lunch: Rabbit food!
Eric stayed home.



That night after supper Reggie's mom told him. "Eric has an auntie who lives with them now. She takes care of Eric during the day so he won't be going back to school. She told me they take a walk after supper every evening in their neighborhood. Do you want to walk with them? You will have to hold my hand and wear a mask, but you can see Eric. He has a new toy car he wants to show you."

"Yes!! Of course I do!!" Reggie replied.



Days later Ms. Josie wore the butterfly mask again and Reggie walked with Eric after dinner. Reggie went to bed thinking “Now I have three friends: Eric who knows about cars and I walk with, Andre who finds animals, and Nikki who counts backwards.”

He wondered who he’ll meet at school tomorrow (and what kind of mask Ms. Josie will wear).