



STEDI.org • for Substitute Teachers About Substitute Teaching

A **SubPack** is an incredible help for substitute teachers much like a security blanket. I often hear from substitute teachers that they would never walk into a classroom without it. A **SubPack** provides a substitute teacher confidence to succeed in most classroom situations. Here are some suggested items for a **SubPack** from substitute teachers across the country:

Fill-In Activity Ideas

- Generic fill-in activities--adaptable to most any class
- Educational games and activities adaptable for different subject areas
- Novels for students who finish early
- Sudoku puzzles
- Book to read aloud as a tool to help focus the class especially if the class is returning from an assembly or recess.
- Word search puzzles
- Stories with missing words that need to be filled in
- Crossword puzzles

Classroom Supplies

- Clipboard
- Sharpened pencils - have printed on them, "This is the teacher's pencil."
- Band-aids
- Paper clips
- Notepaper
- Blank nametags
- Calendar
- Masking tape - I write the names of all the students on a piece of tape and have the students put it on their shirt for the day
- Staple remover
- White-out
- Highlighters
- Small pencil sharpener
- Sticky notes
- Dry erase markers and eraser

Rewards and Motivators

- Lots of stickers - scratch and sniff always seem to be a winner!
- Gorilla puppet named George. He is shy and won't come out unless the children are quiet and following directions
- Some McDonald's 50-cent coupons for student helper(s) who assist me
- Certificates
- Tickets
- Dollar prizes for drawing

Items Helpful for Substitute Teachers

- Copy of the schools rules, dress code, classroom procedures and important contacts if there is any trouble in the classroom
- Musical instrument (like a triangle, bell, or a shaker to use as an attention getter)
- Binder containing a map of each school, hall passes printed on card stock, and time fillers by grade level
- Copy of the substitute teacher lesson plans, on which I make notes regarding our progress
- Substitute Teacher Reports
- A timer
- A whistle
- Breath mints
- A package of cheese and crackers, in case I need a snack
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes

Substitute Teacher Handbook!

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