

## KINDERGARTENERS ON THE GO

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(1) Anticipating the end of the story, the bubbly kindergarteners begin fidgeting, anxious to be excused and get ready for the bus. Hearing the teacher's command, they spring from their personalized mats and scurry towards the coat rack which is visibly crowded with jackets, hats, boots, and bags. Pushing their way through the rest of the kids to get to their own items, they neglect to notice the coats and hats they have knocked down along the way. By the time each of the kindergarteners reaches the hook that holds his or her items, another child has already torpedoed through, dumping more coats carelessly to the floor. But this state of bedlam does not last long, because as soon as the kids have found their belongings, they spread out around the room and begin to dress themselves in various ways. Though once a class of kindergarteners, they have now become the Speedy, Tidy and Poky Dressers, preparing themselves for the bus ride home.

(2) Scurrying around in a flurry, the Speedy Dressers are obsessed with the clock. Any objects that retard their pace they fling aimlessly to the floor. Fellow kindergarteners who attempt to distract them or obstruct their paths are blatantly ignored or sidestepped. Since they overlook the importance of tying their hats and zipping their jackets, the Speedy Dressers constantly appear untidy. To them, a zipped jacket symbolizes wasted time--the enemy they eagerly avoid. Knotted shoelaces and hat strings are welcomed since these eliminate the need for the sometimes difficult bow tie. Often, though, the concerned teacher forces unwanted aid on the Speedy Dressers, therefore hindering their speed.

(3) Because the goal of the Speedy Dressers is to be first in the bus line, they drag their bags behind them, more an inconvenience than a necessity. Homework and parental notes are haphazardly shoved into already jumbled bags, making a spill almost inevitable. Lost or crumpled papers do not concern the Speedy Dressers, who want only to beat everyone else to the line.

(4) The Tidy Dressers, impeccable children as compared to the Speedy Dressers, are careful to tie all bows securely and zip their jackets properly. As they dress, the Tidy Dressers listen attentively to their teacher but avoid joining in with their noisy classmates. Unlike the Speedy Dressers, the Tidy Dressers despise knots and caught zippers. Still, however complicated the knot, they focus all their attention on it until it is untangled, asking for help only in extreme cases.

(5) Before the Tidy Dressers join the line, they fold all of their papers with one single crease and organize them in compartments located inside their bags. They then stroll over to the already formed line, grasping the handles of their bag and carefully lifting it off the ground so as not to dirty or scrape its bottom. Unconcerned about their place in the line, they fall in behind the ranks of the Speedy Dressers.

(6) While their classmates are preparing for the bus, the Poky Dressers are still working on their art projects and eating their snacks. Only after their teacher hollers at them do they begin to ease out of their seats and saunter over to the coat rack. After slithering into their coats, the Poky Dressers wander aimlessly around the room in search of missing hats and bags which can usually be found right under their noses. Inching their zippers along, they are overwhelmed by the slower among the Speedy Dressers who whiz by them. Their feeble attempts to get dressed are always complicated by knotted hat strings which wipe out any chance for further progress. Standing helpless amid their piles of accessories, the Poky Dressers are quick to receive help from the teacher, who skillfully untangles the knot and hurries them along.

(7) Trudging toward the line of kindergarteners, the Poky Dressers carry nearly empty bags, filled only with yesterday's homework and notices from weeks before. Today's papers lie forgotten on their desks, missed--if at all--only later on, at home. As they file in behind the Tidy Dressers, they dream of their birthdays, the only chance they will have to be first in line. As for now, they settle for bringing up the rear of this assortment of kindergarten dressers.