At the top of the daily message board the teachers write the sentence, “Who is here today?” Underneath they draw a column of stick figures and next to each figure they write the name of a child or adult in the class. Each day the teachers indicate who is absent that day by making an erasable X in front of the name. Each day they also draw stick figure(s) and write the names(s) of any guest(s) who will be visiting the classroom. If the guest is free to play with the children, they draw a toy, such as a ball or book, in the stick figure’s hand. If the guest is there only to watch or observe, they draw a clipboard in the hand. Each morning the class begins by talking about who is “present” and who is “absent.” Then together with their teachers, the children count the number of stick figures with no mark (in school) and those with a mark (not in school). They also discuss any guest(s) who are coming and whether that person will be a “player” or a “watcher.” Sometimes the teachers ask the children to “predict” whether an absent child will be back the next day. For example, after informing the class that Tommy left yesterday for a three-day vacation, a teacher asks, “Do you think he will be here tomorrow?”

Original Source: Intentional Teacher, NAEYC, Washington, DC: pg 2-3

Adapted from California Preschool Instructional Network, Region 3