

Useful Games & Quick Activities

ACTIVITIES

1. **Puzzle:** Get a Dollar Store puzzle with 12 or 24 pieces. Turn it over, have the kids decorate the backs in any way they choose. Keep it in the classroom as a figit activity they can reassemble throughout the year or glue together and hang in the room.
2. **Mutagen:** In a bowl, mix 1 cup water, ½ teaspoon Borax. In a separate bowl, mix 1 cup water, 1 bottle clear Elmer's glue, & your choice of food coloring. Mix the two bowls together and create instant ooze! Discard any excess water before distributing handfuls that the kids can play with on the table.
3. **Pipe Cleaner Constructo Set:** Plastic golf balls and hair curlers (both available at the dollar store) make great creative play when combined with pipe cleaners.
4. **Snow:** 3 cups baking soda, ½ cup hair conditioner. It's cold. It's moldable. It's fun.
5. **Priorities.** Get a glass vase, rocks, pebbles, sand, and water. Great analogy to apply to many topics where kids must prioritize and ascribe values.



BOTH (IT'S AN ACTIVITY AND IT'S A GAME!)

1. **Class Jenga:** Have Jenga as a class downtime activity, but customize it to your class. Hand out the blocks at the start of the year, have the kids write an action someone has to do when they pull out that block or a question the player will have to answer that relates to your class theme.

GAMES

1. **Marco Pollo.** A land version! One player is blindfolded and counts to 10 while the rest of the class "hides" in plain sight. Once the counting is done, though, the "hiding" players' feet are frozen to the spot – they can, however, move the rest of their bodies. If the blindfolded player says "Marco" all other players must, audibly, say "Pollo." If the blindfolded player touches you or if a hiding player moves their feet or falls over then they become "it."
2. **Marble Relay.** Get paper towel tubes and cut them lengthwise into two long chutes. Give every kid a chute. Divide the class into two teams. Line each team up. Whichever team can roll a large marble or golf ball down all their chutes in succession (without touching the ball with their hands at all or dropping it) wins.
3. **Red Elbow.** The teacher shouts a body part and a color. The whole class must put that body part on something of that color. Great for quickly energizing a sluggish class or focusing a rowdy class. Need to do this once or so a week over several weeks for it to catch on and be most useful.
4. **Penne!** Spill a box of penne pasta across a table. Give every kids a kebab stick. With hands behind their backs and the kebab stick in their mouth, see who can spear 5 penne onto their kebab stick first.
5. **Snack Line Up.** Ask kids to sit around the table in order of height (one week biggest to smallest, another time smallest to biggest), age, shoe size, alpha by middle name, farthest distance traveled, hair length, number of pets in the house. Or on one side of the table sit those who can whistle vs. those who can't, those who can roll their tongues vs. those who can't, those who can snap vs. those who can't...then have the cans teach the can'ts.