

NOTES

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Using Games and Strategies for Student Engagement



Sources:

Kagan Strategies

www.Kaganonline.com

http://www.pblearning.com/uploads/4/7/9/6/4796041/kagan_strats.pdf

Tapestry of Faith

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children>

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TEAM BUILDERS

Round Robin Teacher announces topic on
which students are to share something with

the team. This can be timed, too. Groups of four work best. Students take turns sharing information about the topic.

Back Ups Partners sit back to back on the ground. By pressing their backs together, they slowly rise. This can be done in pairs, triads, or larger groups.

Find the Fiction Teammates write three statements about themselves, two that are true and one that is false. One teammate reads his/her statements. Other members write down his/her best guess as to which is false, then team discusses.

Imaginary Conversations Players are in pairs and are told they are to have a conversation with their partners. The hitch- no words or sounds are allowed. The conversation occurs with facial expressions and body language. e.g. Which make better pets- cats or dogs?

CLASS BUILDERS

Mix-N-Match Each student gets a card. All students get out of seats, walk around the room exchanging cards. Call “Freeze”. Have students find someone with matching card. Pair up. After all have found match, name the topic pairs are to discuss. Pairs discuss. To continue, call out “Mix” and they start again.

Corners Teacher announces Corners. Students think and write the name of their choice of corner. Students go to corner of choice, find a partner, and discuss reasons for the preference. e.g. Do you prefer spring, summer, winter, or fall?

Just Like Me Teacher reads statements that teacher has written earlier and ask students to stand if they agree with the statement and exclaim “Just like me!” e.g. I like chocolate chip cookies. I am very tired this morning.

On A Continuum Students respond to a statement that the teacher reads and move on an imaginary line that shows how they feel about the statement. (“a lot”, “sort of”, “not at all”) e.g. I believe dreams can come true. I believe in coming to church on Sundays. Then, discuss.

GAMES

Wagon Wheel Students hold hands to form a large circle, their wagon wheel. The wheel starts moving slowly around the walls so that each person’s back will at one point touch the wall. The players can pick up speed as they get better and better.

Find the Leader Class sits or stands in circle. One child, the guesser, leaves the room or closes his/her eyes while the leader is chosen. The leader begins actions for the others in the circle to follow. The guesser returns to room or opens eyes and tries to determine who the leader is. Once correctly identified, a new guesser and leader are chosen.

Balloon Bounce In groups of four, have children hold hands in a circle and bounce a blown balloon or feather in the air without letting go of their hands. They can use hands, elbows, feet, or any body part to keep the balloon in the air. Challenge: Add second balloon to also to keep in the air.

Ball Toss Class stands in circle. One child is tossed the ball and introduces self. Then, he/she throws ball to another child, who introduces self, too. Continue until all are introduced. Next have them introduce themselves and then, to whom they throw.