



GAMES/IDEAS - BASIC FUNCTIONS

This games and ideas are additional to the learnbook of sharing minds.

Occasionally, one speaks also of basic abilities, still more common is the term "learning requirements". This refers to elementary skills that allow children to learn cultural techniques without disturbance as far as possible. These elementary skills include emotional, motoric abilities, perception, cognition, language and social ability.

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GAMES/IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN EMOTIONALITY

Emotion-Cube

Out of paper, a cube is created. On each surface of the cube a different feeling can be captured either with words or with pictures. This Emotion-Cube can then be used in the group. The children can imitate feelings with facial expressions and gestures. These feelings can be used as an input for conversation. In this way, the game helps making a connection to one's feelings and to the feelings of other people.

Emotion - Puzzle

Two matching shapes are cut out of cardboard / paper. On one of the forms, the children write or draw a feeling. On the corresponding form the children can depict what makes them happy or sad (or whatever the feeling on the first paper is). This can help to understand why one has certain feelings in specific situations and serves as input for an exchange in a group or in pairs.

Other ideas

- Punching bag, rope skipping
- Books on the topic – Guess how much I love you
- Drawing with coloured pencils, watercolours, etc.
- „Jumping room“, relaxation corner (where children can retreat and relax)
- Theatre, mime

Song about emotions

If you're happy and you know it
clap your hands. (Clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it
clap your hands. (Clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it
and you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it
clap your hands. (Clap clap)

You can also sing about other feelings. Then you can replace the word happy with another feeling and you can also make another movement or facial expression/gesture instead of clapping.

If you are happy and you know it

www.singing-bell

The image shows three lines of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). Chords A, D, and A are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "If you're hap - py and you know it clap your hands. _____ if you're".

The second line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). Chords D, G, and G are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "hap - py and you know it clap your hands. _____ If you're hap - py and you know it then your".

The third line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). Chords D and A are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "face will sure - ly show it, if you're hap - py and you know it clap your hands. _____".

- More ideas**
- Saying/learning verses (Sing loudly/silently/swiftly/slowly etc.)
 - Playing theatre
 - The child is telling about the weekend
 - Encourage children to speak by asking them open questions (open questions= What/Why/How questions, closed questions are these questions which can only be answered with Yes and No.)
 - Quizzes
 - Narrating tales
 - Let the children tell storybooks (there must be a quiet and comfortable place for this. The bookcase should be placed at child's height so that the children can pick up the books on their own. Good lighting is also important).
 - Listening to stories (Jakari/Kasperli/Globi etc.)
 - Telling tales with finger figures and hand puppets
 - Inviting a story in a circle: One child starts with a single sentence, the next one has to continue the story, and so on.
 - Narrating chair or hat: A child invents a story
 - Tell the children from your own childhood
 - Encourage the children to tell a storybook to each other or to, for example, a doll
 - Board games that stimulate the language

GAMES/IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION/LANGUAGE

Telephone game

Everyone is standing in a circle. One child makes up a word and whispers it into another child's ear. This says the same word to its neighbor until everyone in the circle has heard it. The last child in the circle then says the word aloud and we find out if it was the right one. This game promotes language - you have to be careful to pronounce the word correctly. Moreover, the children have to listen properly so that they understand the word.

Role-playing game

Man stellt den Kindern verschiedene Kleider zur Verfügung, damit sie sich verkleiden können. Weiter werden Alltagsmaterialien wie Kochherd, Kochgeschirr, Abwaschbecken, Gläser, Gabel, Messer, Telefon, Haarbürste etc. bereitetgestellt. Somit können die Kinder in die Welt der Erwachsenen eintauschen und viele Alltagsdinge erlernen. Auch können sie im Spiel Dinge, welche im Alltag geschehen sind verarbeiten. Das Rollenspiel regt zum Sprechen an.

Telling storybooks

The educator/teacher tells storybooks and changes the voice when different characters in the book are speaking. Another possibility is to let the children tell the storybook and ask them what they can see in the pictures.

Like this, the children learn to communicate and express their feelings, opinions, thoughts and experiences. The children get to know and apply rules of conversation (listen carefully and use new terms appropriately. The books can also help addressing problems. For example, if violence between children is common, you can tell a story, in which violence plays a role in order to sensitize the children for the topic and to initiate talking about the issue.

Some examples for books:

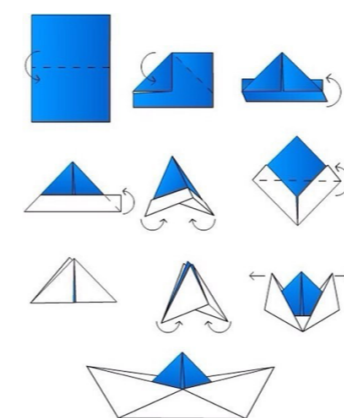
- how to catch a star
- Elmar
- I want my hat back
- The Guffalo
- Guess how much I love you
- Room on the broom
- The very hungry caterpillar
- Lost and found
- Something else

GAMES/IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN MOTORIC ABILITIES

Gross motor skills

Circle play - snake dance: All children form a large circle. A child starts as the head of the snake and goes around the circle. The following song is sung together:
"Das isch de Schlange ihre Tanz, sie chunt vom Bärgli abe, sie hed verlore ihre Schwanz und möcht ne wider haa, säg hesch nit du, es chlises Stückli vo mim Schwanz - hey."
When the song is finished, the child approaches another child. This can crawl between the legs of the first child and then hold on to her/his shoulders. The snake tail gets longer and longer until all the children form a snake together. To additionally animate the children, you can make a snake-head hat for the first child.

Fine motor skills



Fold with paper.

Other ideas

Gross motor skills:

- Heaven and Hell game
- Football
- Circle games
- Course with different obstacles
- Sack racing

Fine motor skills:

- handicrafts, cutting, working with clay, pasting, etc.
- Painting stones
- Making chalk



GAMES/IDEAS - BASIC FUNCTIONS

GAMES/IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN PERCEPTION

Senses Memory Game

The classical memory game can be adapted to the different senses.

Sight: The children can create a memory game by painting the same picture twice. An adaption is to make a color memory game, for instance, one card contains a red spot and the other card a red tomato. The children have to recognize and combine the colors.

Sound: Small cans/boxes (surprise eggs, film cans etc.) are filled twice with the same objects. The children search for objects that create the same sound.

Touch: Stick the same material on two cards. Place all cards in a box/under a blanket, or blindfold the children so that they have find the identical cards with their hands. Moreover, they can guess what material was used. You can use sand, wool, wood, stones, or waste such as bottle caps, cardboard, plastic.

Smell: Fill small cans with various objects, foodstuffs such as spices, etc. Make holes in the lids so that the children can guess the two same smells with their nose. (Demanding)

Walk through the room

Children play the game in pairs. One child closes its eyes and the other child leads the child around the room, taking him/her by the hand. This requires a lot of trust in the partner. Sense of orientation in the room is strengthened. Dangerous objects should be put on the side.

Pictures with handprints

The children can paint their hands with watercolors and put their handprints on a big sheet of paper. The handprints on the paper are used to create fantasy pictures, for example related to a specific topic (plants, animals, people, landscapes etc.).

Other ideas

- „I see something you don't“
- Sensory course (with objects such as ropes, stones, wood, sand, water, etc.): Walk barefoot through this course.
- Body painting
- Blind cow
- Radio game

GAMES/IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN COGNITION/THINKING

Jigsaw puzzle

With the children we are putting puzzles together. First, puzzling is demanding with regard to the visual perception of children. Not only do they have to memorize the picture as a whole and compare it to the respective detail of the puzzle piece, but they also have to consider the fit of the individual piece of the puzzle. It is therefore important that children focus their attention on many visual details and integrate them into an overall picture. Moreover, spatial thinking is promoted, as well as concentration, which they also need in school.

Board games

We play various board games with the children such as memory games. The different rules of the board games are trained. For example, waiting until it is your turn, following the rules, or being considerate of others. Furthermore, the children experience the feeling of competition and learn to win as well as to lose. Strategies for reducing frustration can be trained.

Quizzes

You can create your own quizzes, which reflect the learning material and are fun. For example, Which animals do live in Africa? You can give a choice of answers, one of which is correct, and the child must then check the correct answer. At <https://www.xwords-generator.de/en> you can design and print crossword puzzles for the children yourself.

The quizzes and puzzles are fun and motivate the children to learn something. They are learning the content in a different way and their concentration is enhanced. Puzzles train lateral thinking. This in turn means that good quiz-solvers will find solutions to problems more quickly. Listening attentively is trained. Solving puzzles and quizzes is one of the best and most enjoyable ways to use and train our mind.

GAMES/IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN SOCIABILITY

Circle games

Circle games are played in a circle. The children have a cushion to sit on so that they have their place and know where to sit. In the circle, it must be quiet so that everyone hears what is being played. There are different ways to create the circle and many different games.

One game is head and shoulder. We sing a song and touch the part of the body that we sing about are touched.

Another is radio. One child leaves the room and another hides under a blanket. Then the child who has left the room can press the hidden "radio" and the child under the blanket makes a sound. The child has to find out who is under the blanket.

The circle games give the child a feeling of togetherness. It feels safe in a group and comes into contact with other children. The child becomes more self-confident and learns to act more confidently when interacting with other children. The child gets the opportunity to lose its inhibition in a playful environment.

Knot with hands

All children stand in a circle and hold hands. One child leads the room. The children try to make a big knot with arms and legs by stepping over arms and legs and intertwining them. Nobody is allowed to let go of their hands, otherwise it does not work. The child who has left the room can then come back and has to try to open the knot.

More ideas

- Community games
- Ball of wool game: Everyone stands in a circle and one child holds a ball of wool and in the other hand the beginning of the string. It then throws the ball to another child but keeps the beginning of the string in its hands. At the end a spider web is created and each child is holding one part of the string.

Rainbow blanket

The rainbow blanket is a large colored blanket the children can hold on to. You can throw a ball into the blanket and lift it up into the air. Additionally, one child can lie beneath the blanket and all other children make wind with the blanket. The blanket connects all children and creates a feeling of togetherness. Everyone must pull evenly and create wind so that it is pleasant for the child beneath the blanket.