

Classroom Activities

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Activity 1

A Cluster of Activities

In this section, we will present an activity and show how teachers can develop simple as well as complex variations of the same basic activity.

Basic Activity: My Classroom

Objective: To develop the vocabulary of learners

Level: Grade II

Material: 50 Cards (approximately)

Time: 80 minutes

Procedure

(For the teacher) Prepare 5x5 cm size cards as per the number of students in the class.

Step 1: Divide the students into five groups.

Step 2: Give each student a card. Ask her/him to name any one object in the classroom, such as blackboard, table, fan, chalk, homework, window, pencil, etc. If required, help the students by giving hints about the objects.

Step 3: Write the names of the objects on the board. If the students name the objects in their mother tongue, write the English equivalent, speak it out aloud and point to it.

Step 4: Give the students plenty of time to look at the words written on the board. Ask them to point out the word that he/she has suggested. Help them identify and understand the meanings of the words suggested by them as well as the other students.

Step 5: Ask the students to write on their cards the words suggested by them.

Step 6: Get the students to put up their cards on the walls in the room.

Variation 1

Step 1: Divide the students into five groups. Give one task to each group. Some examples of the tasks are:

Group 1: Collect from the wall all the cards related to furniture.

Group 2: Collect all the cards related to a pencil box (pens, pencils, etc.).

Group 3: Collect all the cards that have names of things belonging to the students.

Group 4: Collect all the cards that have names of things belonging to the teacher.

Group 5: Collect all the cards that have names of things found in the classroom cupboard.

Step 2: There may be some disputes among the students about which card belongs to which category. The disputes will help them understand that the categories are not water tight.

Step 3: Ask each group to put up their cards separately and give a title to their collection.

The teacher can introduce other categories such as things made of wood, things made of plastic, etc. The categories can be made depending on the words that have been put up on the theme wall.

If it is not possible to make cards, the teacher can write the words on the board and ask the students to copy them in their notebooks.

Some Other Variations

- Ask the students to write the words in their notebooks. Each group has to present these words with their meanings in the class.
- Ask the students to select word cards which carry a word that begins with the letter “p”

or “c” or “d” (the teacher can choose the letter).

- The teacher can ask the students to pick out words from the word cards which have the letter “e” in their spelling. (the teacher can choose the letter.)
- Ask the students to write the words in alphabetical order.
- Ask the students to use the words to make simple sentences such as: “This is a blackboard; This is a chalk; This is a notebook”, etc.

Activity 2

Extended Activity Based on Activity 1

Objective: To learn how to describe things

Material: Picture cards, or cards with the names of some objects on them. These cards have to be prepared by the students. They can write the names of objects found in and around the classroom such as “table, fan, chalk, duster, pencil”. The cards should be put in a box.

Procedure

Step 1: Divide the students into two groups, group A and group B.

Step 2: A student from group A has to describe the object drawn or written on the card to the students of group B. The descriptions will only be repeated twice.

Step 3: The students belonging to group B must listen carefully to the description and identify the object.

Step 4: Next, a student from group B has to pick out a card from the box and describe the object. Group A has to guess the name of the object.

For example:

Group A: It is black in colour, we can write on this. It is there in every class.

Group B: Black board.

Group B: We write with it. It has a sharp point. It comes in different colours.

Group A: Pen

A variation of this task can be:

Group A: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that you keep in a pencil box.

Group B: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that you find on the floor.

Group A: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that you find on the walls.

Group B: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that belong to the teacher.

Group A: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that have words beginning with the letter “A”.

Group B: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that have five letters each.

Group A: Pick out from the box, two cards naming/showing things that are in your school bag.

While the children name the objects, the teacher can write them down on the board. Later, children can be asked to copy these words in their notebooks.

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