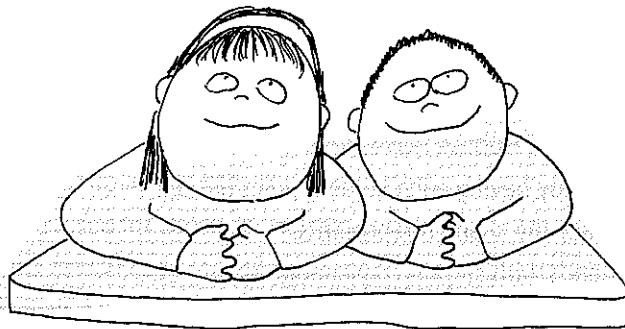


# Sponge Activities

**S**ponge activities are an excellent, productive way to make use of down time or those five- to ten-minute gaps in the day before a transition (lunch/recess) or at the end of the day. They challenge students to think in a fresh, "out of the box" way that is fun and purposeful. The following are some suggested sponge activities that can be used.

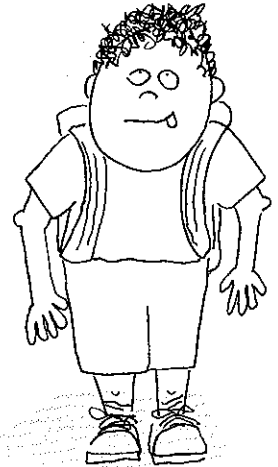


## Primary-Grade Sponges

- Be ready to tell one playground rule.
- Be ready to tell me the names of the students in our class whose names begin with *P* or *M* (etc.).
- Be ready to draw something that is only drawn with circles.
- Be ready to tell a good health habit.
- Have a color on the board. Have students draw something that color.
- Say numbers, days of the week, or months, and have children tell what comes next.
- "I went to the sporting goods store and I bought . . ."—each child names an item.
- What number comes between these two numbers: 31–33, 45–47 (etc.)?
- What number comes before or after 46, 52, 13 (etc.)?
- Have a word written on the board. Students make a list of words that rhyme.
- Have a word written on the board. Students make a list of words that have the same long or short vowel sound.
- Put spelling words in *abc* order.
- Count to 100 by twos, fives, tens, etc.—either orally or in writing.
- Use T-squares to drill math fundamentals.
- Think of animals that live in the jungle, on a farm, in the mountains, in water, etc.
- Give the names of fruits, vegetables, meats, etc.
- Play hangman using the names of students in the class, colors, numbers, etc.
- Play Simon Says.
- Play I Spy.
- List things you can touch, things you can smell, big things, small things, etc.
- List the colors you are wearing.

## Primary-Grade Dismissal Sponges

- I Spy—who can find something in the room that starts with *M, P* (etc.)?
- Who can find something in the room that has a short *a* sound, a long *o* sound, etc.
- Count in order by twos, fives, tens, etc.
- Say the days of the week, the months of the year, etc.
- What day is it? Month? Date? Year? How many months in a year? Days in a week? Etc.?
- Use flash cards. The first correct response leaves first.
- Review the four basic shapes by having each student point out an object in the room that names the shape it represents.
- Say a word that begins or ends with certain consonants, blends, etc.
- Dismiss by color of eyes, clothes, shoe types, month of birthday, season of birthday, beginning letter of name, etc.
- "What did we learn today?" Student identifies one lesson from the day.



## Upper-Grade Sponges

- List the continents of the world.
- Make up three names for rock groups.
- Name as many kinds of natural disasters as you can.
- Take a number. Write it. Now draw a face from it.
- Name as many gems or precious stones as you can.
- Write the names of all the girls or boys in the class.
- Write the names of as many teachers in this school as you can.
- List as many states as you can.
- Write as many as you can: (a) abbreviations; (b) Roman numerals; (c) trademarks; (d) proper names (biographical); (e) proper names (geographical).
- How many countries and capitals can you name?
- How many baseball teams can you name?
- Write down as many cartoon characters as you can.
- List as many kinds of flowers as you can.
- List all the things in your living room.
- Write what you would do if you saw an elephant in your backyard or on your street.
- Name as many kinds of ice cream as you can.



## Upper-Grade Sponges (continued)

- List five parts of the body above the neck that have three letters.
- List one manufactured item for each letter of the alphabet.
- List as many nouns in the room as you can.
- List the mountain ranges in the United States.
- Write the twelve months of the year correctly. Stand up when you are done.
- Make a list of five things you can do outside after school.
- List one proper noun for each letter of the alphabet.
- Name as many holidays as you can.
- Write numbers by sixes as high up as you can.
- Name as many balls that are used for sports as you can.
- List as many U.S. presidents as you can.
- List all the work tools you can think of.
- List as many models of cars as you can think of.
- Name all the colors you know.
- How many parts of an auto or computer do you know?
- How many animals that begin with vowels can you list?
- List as many kinds of trees as you can.
- Name as many countries in the world as you can.
- Name as many personal pronouns as you can.
- Name as many kinds of transportation as you can.
- How many different kinds of languages can you name?
- Write as many homonyms as you can (e.g., past, passed).
- You have five children. Make up five names.
- Name as many things that are made of cloth as you can.
- List all the musical instruments you can think of.
- Name as many politicians as you can.
- Name as many wars as you can.
- Name as many types of dogs as you can.
- Scramble ten spelling words. Switch with someone.  
Unscramble the words.
- List as many things that make people the same as you can.
- List as many things that make people different as you can.
- List as many kinds of soup as you can.
- List all the places you find sand.
- List as many breakfast cereals as you can.

