



A Survival Kit for Casual Relief Teachers

IDEAS, WEBSITES AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP
MAKE YOUR DAY GO SMOOTHLY

Sample pages.

2nd Edition UPDATED



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Includes more website links and descriptions for each one.



Why the Updated Version??

Since first compiling this resource in 2010, the classroom of the 21st Century has changed rapidly. Collaboration amongst teachers has also evolved, whether it be through Facebook, Blogging, Weebly, Wiki spaces, Livebinder, Symbaloo, Twitter, Pinterest etc. There is so much on the internet now that at times it can become consuming and slightly overwhelming. This can distract you from your job at hand, which is to prepare relevant, engaging lessons to keep your students interested and learning. You may be a classroom teacher, or relieving, but the goal remains the same.

I began a Facebook group for Casual Teachers in July 2014, which has grown to around 4000 since that time. [Surviving Casual Teaching Facebook Group](#). There are many groups dedicated to supporting each other with resources and answering questions that we just may need some guidance with.

So, I have realised that it is high time the 2nd Edition of "A Survival Kit for Casual Teachers" had a makeover. Some links are no longer available, so I have removed them and added many more that I have discovered since starting the group.

I welcome you to come over and be a part of our Facebook community and please read the guidelines of the group, so that you know if it is a group you would enjoy being associated with.

My Website if you would like to visit is <http://oceanviewlearningcentre.com/> which will also link you to my [SELZ](#) store.

May 2015



Please read below



Some pages are left deliberately blank for printing purposes.

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A casual teacher's job can be a challenge at times, but the key to success is being organised and well resourced. Included in this compilation are a number of activities which can be easily adapted to accommodate the needs of most K-6 classes. This book is designed for use primarily as an electronic copy to access from your choice of storage device, or the hard copy is available if you prefer to have a hands-on copy.

I strongly recommend that you explore the links included in the book, as there is a wealth of knowledge and experience on the internet..... You just need to know where to look.

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Behaviour Management and Organisation

Sample pages.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE CASUAL TEACHER

When the phone rings first thing in the morning, being organised and getting to your school on time can set the tone for the rest of the day. Have a tote tray, grab bag or box already organised for you to grab and walk out the door. Here is a list of things that to consider keeping packed at all time

- Whistle and hat for outside activities
- Bell or prompt for use inside the classroom. Mobile phones often have stopwatches with alarms which can be used effectively if an activity is set within a given time frame.
- Blank labels for children to use as nametags. Small pack of tissues.
- Marking pens
- Thumb drive for use with IWB or to print off favourite activities on arrival at school, all of our logins for external storage e.g. dropbox, google drive.
- Book of short stories or a picture book for younger children.
- Stickers and rewards
- iPad, thumb drive or bookmarked selection of songs or relaxing music to put on while children work.
- Scrap paper
- Early finishing folder of activities which may include word searches, number sheets, colouring, etc.

On Arrival

- Familiarise yourself with the timetables, playground duties, code of conduct and in school behaviour strategies. (Most schools will have these displayed in the classroom, or perhaps a book is available for casuals)
- Find the sign on book!!
- Introduce yourself to other staff members, and ask for any help you may need.

In the Classroom

- A set of blank labels to be used as nametags is a useful tool for learning names.
- Use roll time to familiarise yourself with children, when they answer their name, have them answer a question like "what is your favourite colour, animal, what is something you are good at?"

- Appoint a child or children to be your advisers for the day. This child will help with messages, handing out, finding resources etc. (Some classes may have a student who is designated this role anyway). Ask children what some of the rules in their classroom are, and their code of conduct.
- Check the discipline policy at the school where you are CRT and ask another teacher or teacher's aide to explain it to you if you really aren't sure. Keeping in the routine and policies of the school and classroom will make your day run smoother. Sometimes you can find the code of conduct on the school's webpage.
- At the start of the day, explain to children your expectations of behaviour, noise levels, making good choices perhaps use one of the following strategies as a focus for class behaviour. (plenty of ideas on my linked Pinterest board)

Stop, look and Listen

- At the beginning of class, show the children that when you want them to stop, look and listen in a hurry, you will do a certain action or make a certain noise. For example, every time they see you put a finger on your lip and a hand in the air, they will know to immediately do the same,
- Mix it up and make it fun, pat your tummy and rub your head when you are finished,
- You can also do a clapping rhythm with them that they echo every time they hear it. This is easier and usually more effective than raising your voice or trying to talk over the crowd when they are busy or off-task.
- A bell or small musical instrument is also useful. A had a friend who bought a duck whistle, which went down really well with the children.
- There are now a variety of timers and visual prompts available for use with IWB

Class Points

Before the start of class, write and underline the word **CLASS** on the chalkboard. Explain to the students first thing in the morning that they will be working together as a class to try and collect 15 points by the end of the day. They receive points for good behaviour, attentive listening, hard work, acts of kindness etc. However, they can also lose points for unacceptable behaviour, distracting others, talking out of turn, etc. If they manage to

Interactive Whiteboard

- Be competent and confident with this tool, most classrooms will be equipped with them over the coming years. If you are able to use an application e.g. DET portal, as a tool save your favourite websites and activities, otherwise use a thumb drive to save favourite websites, PowerPoint presentations and activities.
- Other book marking sites like Symbaloo, Livebinders, and Pinterest are accessible on your portal. Consider using Dropbox or Evernote to be able to access your documents and notebook lessons for IWB.

Use your strengths and special talents.

If you have special kid friendly talents, sometimes these can be used as great classroom management techniques! If you can play the guitar, bring that in with you and play for them when they are working quietly. Or, you can use it as a reward if they get their work done or at the end of the day. If you know some magic tricks, that works well in the same way. Show them one at the beginning of class, and then offer to show them more as rewards. Juggling can be used in the same way, if this is something you are capable of doing. I met a casual once, who used to arrive at school with a set of Frisbees, and had a set of great games he used to play with children as a reward.

Being able to draw is a wonderful gift. Children never cease to be amazed by someone who can draw. There are many 'how to draw', activities on Pinterest. Origami is another great activity to share with children, they need to be attentive and listen well or their projects won't work out. More suitable for middle to upper primary children.

Story- telling and puppetry are very powerful tools to use with younger children. Be as lively and as engaging as you can, use different voices for each character and you will have a captivated bunch of listeners.

Ask Your Peers

Since first compiling these activities, 8 years ago, many Facebook groups for beginning and CRTs are available, and are proving to be a fantastic resource. Other teachers are happy to share ideas and websites, activities and apps that they have found useful for their day to day teaching

Links to other Publications and websites for Resource kits

 	TES Connect Classroom Toolkit contains links to resources for all classroom needs, including behaviour management, thematic topics, and subject specific lessons. Follow the links to download the individual resources. You need to be logged in to download but registration is free. This is the UK based site.
	TES Australia is the Australian version of the above site. Registration is free but necessary to download resources. Students from pre-school to Senior Secondary are catered to, with Special Education needs also available. Very easy to navigate, and worth subscribing to get email updates.
	Relief Teaching Ideas Blog (WordPress) The mission statement for this blog is "Sharing ideas to help make relief teaching fun, enjoyable, and meaningful." And this blogger certainly has some wonderful ideas and links that she shares with her readers. The menu is easy to follow and the ideas are so simple, very often requiring little or no preparation. There are links to her Facebook page, Pinterest board and TPT store. Well worth spending time on this site and checking out the archived posts (since 2010). The spin off Facebook group Relief Ideas Teaching Community
	Mrs Pancake describes her site as "home of Brilliant Educational Doodads for Teachers, Parents and Children" This site is based in UK and is aimed at infants k-2 children. There are so many links to teaching, numeracy, and there are a selection of topics to choose from. Lots of resources to print and use as part of your teaching kit.
	Sites For Teachers has hundreds of links rated by popularity. Reading, mathematics, science, Social Studies, Writing, Literacy. Lesson plans, worksheets, activities, clipart and more. This is a US based site so you may need to check font and spelling on worksheets.
	Go Teach This could easily become your one stop shop for printable Math and Reading games which is growing all the time. There are free games available so that you can see the quality of these great resources. They are a wonderful addition to your teaching tool kit. Subscription is recommended, if you subscribe to email, you will be sent free games.

	Susan Burke Interactive Lesson Design is a fantastic resource for teachers using Interactive Whiteboards to engage their students. If you have ever made your own SMART notebook lessons, you will know how time consuming they can be. Susan offers some free lessons for you to see the quality of her work. Her site is a subscription one, but worth every cent. Based in Australia, Susan has a passion for IWB resources. Standard membership gives you access to 300 lessons, with more added each week. The premium membership is my recommendation as you have access to times tables, graphic organisers, thinking tools, NAPLAN preparation, and special events lessons! (school subscriptions available)
	The Learning Page is a free site with "professionally produced lesson plans, books, worksheets and much more!" It is based in US, but it has a comprehensive range of free quality resources to download. It is among the family of Learning A-Z websites. A-Z which offer a trial period but is paid membership. Worksheets are unfortunately not editable so fonts and some spelling may not be appropriate for use in schools outside of US.
	Teach Ezy is a wonderful Australian website aimed at easing the workload of full time and relief teachers. Membership is very reasonable at \$33 a year, with unlimited downloads. Day plans for k-6, Activities and posters for all KLA's. There are a heap of freebies available to download so that you can see the quality of the work on this site. I subscribe to this one, it is one of my favourite 'go to' resource sites. A Resource list for Australian Curriculum linked to their games and activities makes life so much easier!
	Surviving Casual Teaching Pinterest Board with over 500 pins and growing, this resource will only get bigger as I add more websites to this board. This is just one of over 100 boards I have used to save some fabulous ideas and website pages. Be careful, you could spend hours exploring links that are pinned on here. Pinterest is a wonderful place to store and bookmark resources as you find them. Download the 'pin' tool to make things much easier. I have linked my Pinterest boards to the interactive website in my resource booklets.

5-10 Minute Time Fillers

Sample pages.

10 MINUTE TIME FILLERS

Kim's Game

Kim's Game is a very old game that I was first exposed to when I was a brownie!!! It was developed by Lord Baden Powell who was the founder of the scouting movement.

Equipment: a tray with 20 small articles (may be related by theme!), pencil and paper for each person, and a watch or timer. This can easily be adapted to a Smart board activity where the shutter icon is used to cover up the objects, or simply move to a timer page on IWB.

Uncover the tray, or IWB page and point to each article, while naming it so that the whole group sees each thing and hears its name separately, this does help with memory retention and for children who may have a limited vocabulary or be second language learners. Cover the tray after 2 minutes and allow the group 5 minutes to write the names of as many of the 20 objects as they can remember.

Scoring: One point for each correct article in their list. This can be an individual or a group/partner activity.

Another great game from my younger days as a brownie!

Human Knots

How to play Human Knots

(Important: Human Knot involves a great deal of touching and close proximity. Make sure that all participants are comfortable with this before beginning the game.)

Here's how to play:

- Step 1
Stand in a circle with a group of at least four or more people.
- Step 2
Use your right hand to grab the right hand of the person directly across from you.
- Step 3
Use your left hand to grab the left hand of the person to the right of the person holding your other hand.

Alphabet Letters

Players should be in pairs or groups of four. When the leader calls out a letter, the groups must form that letter using their bodies. This can also be played to spell out words from their spelling list done in teams.

Another variation is to call out a number puzzle and the children have to make the answer with their bodies. (Answers are best to be single digit numbers)

Guess who I'm thinking of

This game is like the board game "*Guess who?*" You divide the group into two teams sitting in neatly set up rows of chairs. One person from each team is picked to guess who the judge has in mind from the other team. (The judges must write the name down as proof.) The pickers switch off asking yes or no questions (i.e. does he wear glasses). Anyone who doesn't fit in with the answer must sit down until the picker guesses who. That team gets a point and two new people are picked and you do it all over again.

Variation

This can be played with one 'guesser' at the front of the room, and the children stand behind their chairs. Another student chooses the student and must write the name down and give to the teacher who can help judge that correct feedback is being given to the guesser.

Heads down, Thumbs up

This game has been a classroom favourite for decades, I first started playing this game with children in my classes back in the 70's. It has certainly stood the test of time.

Two - four children, depending on the size of your group, are chosen to stand up and all the others put their heads down with their eyes closed and thumbs sticking up. The children who are left standing must then creep around and gently touch one person each on the thumb, when the thumb is touched they must tuck it into their hand so they can't be touched again. Everyone is then told to open their eyes and the children who were

Grandmother's Cupboard

The first player says, "In my grandmother's cupboard, I found... and ..." and names something that starts with "A." The next player says the same phrase, the object beginning with the "A," and then something that begins with a "B." Continue this way, each player reciting the previous items and adding another, all the way through the alphabet, to "Z."

It could be worse!!

Set up the group in a circle or in pairs. The starting player says something simple like "I almost overslept." Next player says something like "It could've been worse. You could've been late." Then the next, or other, says something worse, like, "It could've been even worse than that. You could've been in your underwear." And then the next or other tries to find something worse than that. Or, the next person says "it could be better..." And so it goes.

This can also be used as a group activity where children write an ongoing story. Sit the children in a circle, each child starts with a piece of paper on which they start their simple sentence. They pass the paper to the person on their left to add the next sentence. The game continues until each person gets back their original story starter. Read and share

The Adverb Game

One Person is chosen to go out of the room. In the meantime, everyone else is deciding on a "fun" adverb - one they could all act out, and have fun with. Slowly is a good one. Nervously, excitedly, quietly etc. When ready, the guesser is invited back in. They instruct any individual or group of individuals to act out things in the way of the chosen adverb.

For example: Jorja, comb your hair in the way of the adverb. Tessa, dance with Jack" in the way of the adverb". Or get the class to brush their teeth in the opposite way of the adverb. Children can be given 3 guesses to work out what the adverb is.

- When a player gets tagged, they must sit down on the line where they are tagged. They become a road block for all of the Pac Man players. Only ghosts can walk around a roadblock.
- The last 2-3 players left standing become the ghosts for the next game.

Person to Person

Everyone stands in a circle with one person in the centre. The person in the centre yells, "people to people" and claps their hands together after each time they say people. They say "people," clap, "people," clap, twice and after the second time they will say 2 body parts. For example, they could say "head to foot." Then everyone including that person must try to find a partner and have a head touching a foot, whoever doesn't find a partner is then in the centre..

Variation

Children are put into pairs, and move around the room to music or a tambourine. When the music stops the teacher will say two body parts and the children must touch those body parts together. E.g. head to knee, tummy to foot, the more inventive the funnier the game. Be mindful of appropriateness for this game.

Squeeze Tag

(A more politically correct version of the old 'murder' games)

Someone is named the "Tagger", but their identity is not known to the rest of the group. The group mingles freely, with everyone shaking hands. When someone is "Tagged," they are given a squeeze rather than a handshake. So while everyone else is giving handshakes, the "tagger" squeezes people's hands. Once someone's hand is squeezed, they are out and sit on the floor. Children can try to guess who the "tagger" is, (only the people left in the game may guess) if they are right, they win. If they are wrong, then they sit down and the game goes on.

Variation 1

Whenever someone gets their hand squeezed, they are now the new "tagger", and the previous one is out and sits on the floor.

Useful links for brain breaks and time fillers

	Gonoodle is quickly becoming a number one favourite with classroom teachers and Relief teachers as the go to site for brain breaks. You need to sign up, but it is free to get an account. You can sign in as a teacher or parent. Gonoodle plus is a paid subscription, but the free version has enough for you to use as a relief teacher.
	Teach Train Love is a great blog from a very passionate teacher who has put together some really good links to brain breaks to use with IWB. She is passionate about sharing her love of teaching in her blog. She has links to her favourite bloggers as well as 'Web Gems for Kids'.
	Bright Ideas Blog Hop this is his 'about me' introduction. "I teach special education in elementary school and have done so for the past 8 years. Kids don't know what my official title is at school. So I'm known as the Multi-tasker. Technology integration is a specialty of mine." He has some wonderful ideas and links
	Super Teacher Tools has some wonderful tools for relief teachers including timers, random name generators, who wants to be a millionaire? game maker etc. Lots of great resources here
	Super Substitute Teachers has a host of games and activities to fill in extra time. Classroom management strategies, free printables, interview tips, discipline techniques and curriculum based activities.
	SA Murray Darling Basin website has some fabulous resources for colouring, curriculum planning, posters, and resources for bio diversity, water conservation, and waste reduction.
	Brisbane Kids from their website. "We are thrilled to be able to offer some authentic indigenous colouring templates so that Brisbane Kids and kids everywhere can combine the enjoyment of colouring with the rich culture and history of Australia. All of these colouring sheets are available for free download and we would encourage you to combine their use with discussions on Australia's history perhaps visiting your local library so that you can extend the learning with books"

Mathematics

Sample pages.

Two Dice Sums

- Math concepts: Students of all ages can play this game, as long as they're able to add the numbers that come up on two dice. While younger children benefit from the practice of adding, older students have the opportunity to think about the probability of the sums from rolling two dice.
- *The object*: to remove all the counters in the fewest rolls possible.
- *How to play*: Two or more players can play. Each player needs 11 counters, a game strip that lists the numbers from 2 to 12 spaced far enough apart so the counters can fit on top of each number, and a recording sheet. Here are the rules for playing:
 - Each player arranges 11 counters on the game strip and records the arrangement.
 - Once the counters are arranged, players take turns rolling the dice.
 - For each roll, all players can remove one counter if it is on the sum rolled. Players keep track of the number of rolls of the dice it takes to clear their game board.

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

"Yahtzee" Tables

Each group needs 5 dice. Children draw up a grid sheet as shown below. (For older children, up to 10 dice can be used to practice tables involving larger numbers)

How to play

The aim of the game is to fill each column and gain the highest score. Children get 3 rolls for each turn (so probability and chance could be discussed as part of the learning outcomes for this game.)

There needs to be a score written next to each number. The first column tells us how many dice were rolled, the second column gives the total score

Useful Links for Mathematics

	Teaching Ideas UK has links across all KLA's, this link will take you to some Mental Maths ideas to use with students k-6, and differentiated to use with older students if needed.
	KB Connected blog has 40+ resources for dice and everything dice related. Every Relief Teacher should include sets of dice and a collection of games into their Survival Kits.
	Hooda Math has an amazing collection of games for use with IWB or in the computer room. Choose by grade or by content strand.
	Sumdog is brilliant. A great way for students to practise their skills, and it can be set up so that they can play online against each other or students around the world. Sign up is free.
	Copacabana PS Get Smart Weebly is a wonderful place to start looking for resources. Links to hundreds of interactivities for use in the classroom (NSW curriculum outcomes attached) Use across all KLA's.
	New Zealand Maths has a host of teaching material on its site. Units of work across all number strands. Their link to picture books with mathematical content is invaluable. So many brilliant resources on this site to explore.
	Study ladder describes itself as "The Ultimate Learning Tool", it is a web based programme built by teachers to help students of all abilities. You can join for free, however, paid subscription gives you access to more activities, and the ability to set activities for classes.

Writing and Literacy

Sample pages.

WRITING

Rapid Writing

Give children a list of unrelated words, and children are asked to write for a given period of time (15 – 20 minutes works well). All the words from the list need to be used in the story/written piece. Children love to share their writing with the rest of the class.

Encourage children to clap or give some positive response after each piece is read. Here are some ideas to get you started

Dinosaur, chocolate, Mother, hiccup, flower, Shark, jelly bean, Desert Island, Movie star, fly Helicopter, chewing gum, elephant, friend, reward Party, ghost, mobile phone, laugh, jelly

Symmetrical Creature

Incorporate symmetry into a fun writing lesson, science lesson, and art lesson. After introducing the concept of symmetry, fold paper horizontally and vertically. Then the children cut a squiggly line on the folded paper. After unfolding the paper, the children then turn the horizontally and vertically symmetrical paper into an imaginary animal.

Artistically, they must keep their animal symmetrical as they add body parts and physical adaptations.

Looking at the creature they have made, use it as a springboard for a writing activity.

Who? Give it a name

What? Does it like to eat?

Why? Is it on Earth?

Where? Did you find it?

When? Did you find it?

How? Did it get to planet Earth?

Then they write about their creature. They are then required to write an informational paragraph (or more, depending on grade level) about the animal and how it meets its basic needs like every other animal on the planet

Variation

Children fold the paper in half lengthwise and write their name along the fold in running writing. Hold paper up to a window to trace the mirror image on the other half. When it

- Now they are ready to draft their story. Students tend to enjoy writing stories using this idea; especially if they are "stuck" and have "writer's block." They generally turn out to be quite creative in the end. Students can write these for fun and/or take them through the writing process to publish.eg

	character	setting	problem
1	Cowboy	On a desert island	Lost a pet
2	Fairy	Near a giant cave	Found a bag full of money
3	Martian	At the movies	Has had a spell put on them
4	Circus strongman	At school	Had something stolen
5	SpongeBob Squarepants	On the school bus	Can't stop sneezing
6	Astronaut	At Movie world	Wins \$1 000 000

Pass the Story

Students sit in a group of four or five. Then start the timer. Each child has a blank piece of paper in front of them. Have them write for 5-15 minutes and then they pass it to the next person. That next person must continue the story. After everyone has contributed to each story, the children share their end result. It is important that children read what others before them have written so that they can continue to story so that it makes sense. A great lesson for quick thinking and writing.

Story Writing Prompts

Ask the children to think of a story that they know well, and to write another version from another point of view.

E.g. Write "Cinderella" from the point of view of one of the ugly sisters,

OR Write "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" from the point of view of the troll,

OR Write "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" from the point of view of Goldilocks.



[Free Booklet of Literacy links to Websites and Apps](#)

When this book was first compiled,(2010) the links included within were all working. Since then some of the websites have been changed or no longer available. So I am including a free resource for you all to download and add to your Survival Kit for Casual Teachers.

This is a brilliant collection of websites and apps freely available from Wadalba Community School. I thank them for generously sharing their resource list.

Spelling Games

	Spelling City is a relief teachers' friend. Registration is free, but subscription offers the use of more games and functions. Create and store your own lists, and print of activities to go with spelling words. A hit with the students.
	Fun Brain has games across all KLA's. This link takes you to the game of Spell Check, there are many more to choose from.
	Gamequarium has over 20 links for different sites to help your students to practise their spelling words in fun and interactive way. Links to other KLA's available.
	Scholastic is a wonderful site for resources, tools, strategies and student activities for literacy. If you have a day in the library, this site is invaluable

Newspaper Spelling

This one takes time, so I suggest that children choose 5-10 words from their weekly list, or do a few words a day and add to them throughout the week. Children cut and paste letters from newspapers and magazines to make words from the weekly spelling list. A great task for visual and tactile learning.

Scribble Spelling

On a sheet of A4 paper, children draw a squiggly pattern using a black or coloured marker pen. The spaces can be filled with writing their spelling words repeatedly in the spaces. Use one colour for each space, and only one word is practised in each space.



Illustration Courtesy of Denise Lediaev @ <http://reliefteachingideas.wordpress.com/>

Noughts and Crosses Spelling

Divide your class into two teams (for larger classes you can have 2 games running at the same time). Name them noughts or crosses. Draw a large noughts and crosses grid on the board. One player at a time is asked to go to the board and write a spelling word from the weekly list given to them by the teacher. If they are correct, then they can fill

Games

Sample pages.

GAMES

Baked Beans

ACTIVITY	COMMAND
JUMPING BEANS	Jump around the room
RUNNER BEANS	Running on the spot OR running around the room
BROAD BEANS	Stretch your arms and legs out as wide as you can OR star jumps
BAKED BEANS	Lie on the floor (pretend to be sunbaking)
JELLY BEANS	Move around the room as wiggly as you can to look like a wobbly jelly
CHILLI BEANS	Stand on the spot and wobble and shake
FROZEN BEANS	Freeze like a statue
STRING BEANS	Play an guitar or air violin
BAKED BEANS ON TOAST	Find a partner and lay down on the floor
MR BEAN	Walk around the room muttering and looking confused
FRENCH BEANS	Pose like a model and shout "Bonjour"
COFFEE BEANS	All cough madly (cover your mouth of course)
HAS BEANS	Walk around as if you have a walking stick

Beans

This activity is ideal for use as a warm-up before the main part of most lessons.

The children should begin by walking around the room in any direction.

On the various commands listed above, they should carry out action alongside it in the table.

To introduce the game, start with just a few of the simple commands and as children grasp the idea add in more to make the game more complex. This is a fun activity and children really enjoy the humour of this game

VARIATION

One caller calls a selection of bean types:

- Jumping beans - jumping round the room
- Runner beans - running round
- Broad beans - stretching broadly (star shapes) etc.

When 'baked beans' is shouted, the caller then tries to catch everyone and when they are caught they need to sit down on the spot.

Mail Run

EQUIPMENT

Bean bag or Frisbee (as the mail) Witches hats

4-6 large soft balls.

HOW TO PLAY

- Children are sorted into two teams. One team is the "mail runners" the other is the "mail stoppers".
- The "mail runners" form a single line behind the leader (this is the order the children will run in)
- The "mail stoppers" split in two and line up opposite each other behind witches hats approximately 6 metres apart.

	The School Bell is an older site, but it has a wonderful list of links to games for primary children. Search for games by grade.
	Ultimate Camp Resource has more games than you will ever need. They are great for very large groups and use virtually no preparation time.
	PedagoNet has an extensive list of games that can be searched alphabetically. Unfortunately you need to click on the game to find out how it is played,
	Old Town Farm is a great site if you are looking for older type games e.g. duck, duck, goose, red rover etc Great if you are doing a unit of games from the past.
	Team Work and Play is the home of the Raccoon Circle activities download. It is a wonderful free resource to use in your teaching resource kit.
	SCT PE and Games my Pinterest board has an ever growing list of sites bookmarked for you to explore and save as part of your relief teaching resource kit.

Thinking Skills

THINKING SKILLS

Commercials

This is a drama game that is fun and requires minimal set up. Put the class into groups of 3 or 4. Give each group an object from around the classroom (ex. a stapler, a chalk board eraser, a ruler etc.). The students have to use that object to make a commercial, but t h e y have to pretend that the object is something else. For example, perhaps the ruler is not a ruler at all, but a back scratcher. The more creative they can be, the better

The 'Yes' or 'No' game

Have students all walk around the hall/classroom/playground in the same direction. You yell out things that can have a "true" or "false" value given to it. For instance, you might yell out "My favourite food is Pizza". If this is true for a student, then they just continue walking in the same direction they were already walking in. If this is not true for a particular student, then that student turns around and starts walking in the opposite direction. Keep calling out similar statements. Students will be walking continue changing directions anytime the statements are 'true' for them. Some examples of statements: My favourite colour is blue. I went to the beach this summer. I watch cartoons on the weekend. I like video games. I have brothers at home. My favourite subject in school is maths. My name starts with a vowel. This is a good game for listening and thinking.

Categories

Children are given a grid with 12 category headings (see examples below) A letter is chosen by pulling a letter out of a hat, dice, random selection by teacher etc. Children then have to fill in each category with a word starting with that chosen letter.

	Jumpstart has a wide selection of Critical thinking worksheets. Just click and go to download. There are also links to many school resources. You can search for worksheets, activities, games, lesson plans, curriculum and holidays. (This is US based site)
	The Kidz Page has a selection of online logic games, perfect to use with IWB, or in the computer room.
	HoodaMath was listed as a helpful resource in the numeracy section. This link will take you to their selection of online logic games.
	Get Smart Weebly this Symbaloo from Copacabana Public School has links to great thinking games, activities and hand/eye coordination skills k-6
	SCT Thinking links to my Pinterest board. This resource will grow as more pins are added.
	SCT Inference Pinterest board can be used for writing prompts, oral language and thinking activities.

Sample pages.

Useful Links and Helpful Sites



Sample pages.

Links and Helpful Sites

	Ripper Resources Blogspot is one of my favourite bloggers. Her specialist area is literacy and higher order thinking. Her resources are fabulous and I love how they make me think about how I discuss picture books with children. She is a university lecturer with a wealth of knowledge and experience that she shares in her blog.
	A to Z Teacher Stuff is a "teacher-created site designed to help teachers find online resources more quickly and easily. Find lesson plans, thematic units, teacher tips, discussion forums for teachers, downloadable teaching materials & eBooks, printable worksheets and blacklines, emergent reader books, themes, and more."
	Kidsites has some great links for teachers and parents for fun, educational and colouring activities. It has been active since 1997, and their primary mission is to find and provide reviews for great sites for kids and bring them into one convenient location.
	EChalk is a subscription site which does offer some free resources. The optical illusions are a fabulous brain break activity. Ideal for tablets, IWB designed specifically for classroom teaching. Created with a focus on learning through fun optical illusions
	The Teachers Corner offers teacher resources, lesson plans, worksheets and activities. It is a US based site so spelling and fonts may need adjusting. Every month they offer a free unit of work which is very helpful to help build your resources.
	Education World is a US blog/newsletter which is a great professional training resource. It has links for lesson plans, substitute teacher pages, responsive classroom and much more. It does have a lot of pop up advertising which can be very annoying.
	Topmarks UK Brilliant site for whiteboard resources, learning games, parent resources and blogs. Search by subject, age group and resource or type. The IWB resources are fantastic, great graphics and very engaging. Bookmark as a favourite.
	SenTeacher.org has printables, specialist links, free software downloads and search tools for all types and levels of special and remedial education. Printables can be adapted to suit a wide variety of needs. Flash card creator and Picture lotto available.

Silly Songs

Sample pages.

SILLY SONGS

On Top of Spaghetti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGBE3eLpvm0>

(To the tune of On Top of Old Smokey)

"On Top of Spaghetti" is sometimes called The Meatball Song.

On top of spaghetti, All covered with cheese,
I lost my poor meatball, When somebody sneezed.

It rolled off the table and onto the floor,
And then my poor meatball rolled out of the door.

It rolled in the garden and under a bush,
and then my poor meatball was nothing but mush.

The mush was as tasty as tasty could be,
and then the next summer it grew into a tree.

The tree was all covered, all covered with moss, and then it grew meatballs, and tomato sauce.

So if you eat spaghetti all covered with cheese, Hold onto your meatball
lest somebody sneeze.

Found A Peanut

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxdZQ7QLI68>

(Tune: Clementine, Author: Unknown)

Found a peanut, found a peanut, Found a peanut just now,
Just now I found a peanut, Found a peanut just now.

Cracked it open, cracked it open, Cracked it open just now,
Just now I cracked it open, Cracked it open just now.

It was rotten, it was rotten, It was rotten just now,
Just now it was rotten, It was rotten just now.

Ate it anyway, ate it anyway, Ate it anyway just now,
Just now I ate it anyway, Ate it anyway just now.

Got a stomach ache, got a stomach ache, Got a stomach ache just now,
Just now I got a stomach ache, Got a stomach ache just now.

Called the doctor, called the doctor, Called the doctor just now,
Just now I called the doctor, Called the doctor just now.

Penicillin, Penicillin, Penicillin just now,
Just now I took Penicillin Penicillin just now.

Operation, operation, Operation just now,
Just now an operation, An operation just now.

Died anyway, died anyway, Died anyway just now,
Just now I died anyway, Died anyway just now.

Went to heaven, went to heaven, Went to heaven just now,
Just now I went to heaven, Went to heaven just now.

Wouldn't take me, wouldn't take me, Wouldn't take me just now,
Just now Heaven wouldn't take me, Wouldn't take me just now.

Went the other way, went the other way, Went the other way just now,
Just now I went the other way, Went the other way just now.

Didn't want me, didn't want me, Didn't want me just now,
Just now they didn't want me, Didn't want me just now.

Was a dream, was a dream, Was a dream just now,
Just now it was a dream, Was a dream, just now.

Then I woke up, then I woke up, Then I woke up just now,

Just now I woke up, I woke up just now.

Found a peanut, found a peanut, Found a peanut just now,
Just now I found a peanut, Found a peanut just now.

The Ants came Marching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xozQnsGkHJ4>

(to the tune of When Johnny Comes Marching Home) author unknown

The ants came marching one by one, Hurrah, Hurrah, The ants came marching one by one, Hurrah, Hurrah, The ants came marching one by one,
The little one stopped to suck his thumb, And they all went marching down...
to the ground... to get out... of the rain...

The ants came marching two by two, Hurrah, Hurrah... The little one stopped to tie his shoe...

The ants came marching three by three, Hurrah, Hurrah... The little one stopped to climb a tree...

The ants came marching four by four... The little one stopped to shut the door...

The ants came marching five by five... The little one stopped to take a dive...

The ants came marching six by six...
The little one stopped to pick up sticks...

The ants came marching seven by seven... The little one stopped to wave at heaven...

The ants came marching eight by eight... The little one stopped to make them late...

The ants came marching nine by nine...
The little one stopped to scratch his spine...

The ants came marching ten by ten... The little one stopped to say THE END...

If you're happy and you know it

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw45CQewCLY>

(Author Unknown)

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!]

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