

## *Classroom Games*

### *Baby Pool Sandbox*

Reuse an old, plastic wading pool. Patch cracks or holes with duct tape. Spread a large dropcloth or tarp on the floor and place the plastic pool on top filled with sand.

### *Game Markers*

#### *Bottle Caps*

Plastic bottle caps from 2-liter containers make easy-to-handle game markers. You can decorate with stickers.

#### *Buttons*

Collect old buttons by removing them when making old clothes into rags. Buttons can be used as game markers or help with math activities.

#### *Margarine Tubs*

Make a homemade game spinner from an empty margarine tub with a lid, a brad, and a large safety pin. Divide the lid into several sections and number them if desired. Insert the brad through the loop in the safety pin and then through the plastic lid. You can also store the game right in the tub!

### *Paper Bag Piñatas*

Piñatas are easy to make from brown paper bags. You will need two brown bags. Cut the bottom out of one bag. Cut away the top half of the other bag. Punch one hole for each student along the bottom edge of second bag. Tie one length of yarn inside each hole, pulling yarn to the outside. Slide the second bag inside the first one and tape into place. Put one Ziplock bag of candy inside the piñata for each student. Staple the bag closed at the top and decorate. Each child should then hold a yarn length and pull at the same time.

### *Puzzles and Puppets*

#### *Cereal Box Puzzles*

Colorful cereal boxes make great puzzles. To make a cooperative game for two to three players, cut out the front panels of three boxes, then cut each panel into pieces (just a few for preschool, more for older students). Put all the pieces into a big pot and have students take turns building the puzzle.

#### *Greeting Cards*

Trim a greeting card or postcard and paste it to the inside of a plastic foam food tray. Cut it into puzzle pieces. Save greeting cards with pictures of animals, people or other characters. Cut the characters out and attach one each to craft stick handles. Now you're puppets are ready for almost any story.

### *Labels*

Save those colorful and bold lettered labels from canned goods for reading games. Cut to uniform size and mount on cards. Collect identical pairs for Concentration and Go Fish games.

### *Scratch Paper*

Kids can make their own scrabble-like game using a pencil and a large sheet of paper. The first

player writes a word in the middle of the page. The next player adds a word, using a letter from the previous word, and so on. When you're stumped, you're out.

#### *Sponge Dice*

Instead of using regular dice in your learning games, cut cubes out of sponges and label with numbers or dots. Not only are the sponge dice cheaper, they're also a lot quieter!

#### *Spool Parachute*

Cut four 12-inch pieces of string. Tie the strings to the corners of an old handkerchief or fabric square, one string on each corner. Then thread the ends of the strings through the hole in an empty spool. Tie the ends in a knot too big to slip back through the hole. Toss the parachute up into the air and watch it float down to the ground.

#### *Straw Bubble Blower*

Tape four to six straws together. Dip one end of the bundle into a bubble solution and blow through the other end for a super-duper bubble blower.

#### *Tire Tee*

Make your own tire-tee ball. Fill the center of an old tire with cement. Place the handle of a plunger in the cement. Let students take turns placing a ball in the upside-down plunger and hitting it with the bat.

#### *Tuna Can Toss*

Clean six empty tuna-size cans and place several layers of tape over the sharp edges. Decorate the cans and attach them to a sturdy piece of cardboard or plywood with hot glue (arrange appropriately according to your game). Write a score inside each can. Place the board flat on the floor or at an angle. Mark where players must stand and toss coins or buttons into the cans.

#### *Ziplock Bags*

Large Ziplock bags can be used as a game board. Permanent markers work great on plastic. The bag can also store game pieces, markers, and directions. Also, you can wipe the board off if it gets dirty.