

Classroom Organization

Bed Sheet Cover

To hide inevitable clutter or cover the front of shelves with bed sheets.

Have students make designs such as handprints with fabric paint.

Dish Rack Organizer

A drying rack that fits inside a kitchen sink is a great storage spot since letter-sized file folders fit perfectly in it. The holder at the other end works well for pencils, pens, tape, and spinners, game markers or anything else needed to accompany the file folder games.

Envelope Bookmarks

Have students cut off the corners of a business envelope, so that the straight edges are at least two inches long. Decorate the corners and use as bookmarks.

Shower Curtain Hooks

These hooks can serve several purposes. Some types can be clipped on chalkboard trays to hold book sets or games. Others clip over window bars to hold headphones. These hooks may even be used as plant hangers.

Storage Containers

Baggies

Place photos in a Ziplock bag, so pictures can be handled eliminating fingerprints. Have students store their crayons, pencils, erasers, and other loose items inside quart-sized Ziplock bags. Use a permanent marker to write students' names on the outside. Everyone can organize their desk without needing plastic school boxes.

Boxes

Detergent boxes can be cut away to store old magazines. Use contact paper to cover and give extra durability. Spaghetti boxes are the right shapes for slides. A large cardboard box can be decorated to hold scrap and recycled paper.

Carry-Out Containers

Wash Styrofoam and clear plastic containers to store games, flash cards, markers, etc. Label or decorate the outside with permanent markers.

Clothes Basket

Use plastic clothes baskets to store recess equipment, such as balls, mitts, etc. They will not only keep your equipment neat, but will be easy for students to transport outside.

Envelope

Cut 9 x 12 or larger envelope in half and tape on side of desk or chair as a student mailbox. The mailboxes can substitute for student nameplates on desks. Cover writing on envelope with stickers or scrap construction paper.

Eyeglass Case

Use an old glass case (preferably one that opens at the top) to hold pens, pencils, or markers. The cases can be left at a learning center, overhead or on desks for students to use conveniently.

French Fry Container

If you love french fries, you'll love gathering materials for this idea. Collect a fast food french fry container for each student or number of calculators available to your class. Arrange the calculator caddies on a bulletin board using thumbtacks.

Frozen Juice Cans

To store maps and posters neatly, roll them up and insert them into frozen juice cans that have both ends removed.

Hanging Metal Fruit Baskets

Excellent for holding odd-sized games and activities. Spray paint them to match your classroom colors.

Ice Cream Buckets

Cover cardboard ice cream buckets with contact paper. Write a child's name on the outside front of the lid. Stack the buckets and use them as storage cubbies.

Lunchboxes

Discarded lunch boxes are great for storage. Just paint them a bright color or cover with contact paper. Wonderful for games, puzzles, activity cards, etc.

Plastic Containers

Rubbermaid silverware caddies can also be used as a perfect storage place for markers, scissors, grading pencils or other school supplies.

Plastic Jugs

Storage for nails and other shop-type items. You can see what's in there and the handle makes it handy for carrying. Can also be used for storage for shells, puzzle pieces, small toys, etc.

Breath-Mint Containers

Save empty plastic breath-mint containers (like Tic-Tac containers) to keep baby teeth and little earrings, that have been lost or need to go home with a child. Breath-mint containers are small enough to fit into most pockets, but large enough not to get lost.

Toothpaste Spot Remover

Use toothpaste to remove water spots and other stubborn stains on wooden desks and chairs.