



Have fun practicing math with your students using sticky notes. This game will get your students moving around the classroom to find their “math buddy” while also practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Focus Skills: Communication, Observation, Listening, Math

Grades: 2-5

STEP 1. Secretly assign each student in your class a number. This is a game where students must go and find their number buddy within the rest of the class, so be sure to assign duplicate numbers to half the students.

STEP 2. Once students have their numbers, have them write a math problem on a sticky note that equals their number. The problem can be as simple or as complicated as they'd like. For example, if a student has the number 25, they could write out this math problem on their sticky note: $5 \times 2 + 20 - 5 = ?$

STEP 3. Now it's time to mix up all the math problems that your students wrote. Randomly take all the sticky notes and place or tape one on the back of each student.

STEP 4. Let Math Buddy Shuffle begin! Students must go up to one another and solve the problem on one another's back. They must solve each problem completely before they can move on. (To encourage this, you could even have them take along a notebook to write down answers.)

STEP 5. As each person discovers their math buddy, have them write their matches up on the board.

STEP 6. The game isn't over yet. As everyone looks for their buddy, encourage students to continue finding and solving problems until they get them all. Repeat this game by assigning everyone a new number. You can also give students additional rules for writing their math problems, especially if you're studying or practicing a specific unit.

DID YOU KNOW?

Teachers often do most of the talking in class, but when you use play to get students involved and promote communication, it really encourages them to take charge of their learning in a new way and gain leadership skills.



TOY TIME TIP! A simple deck of cards is the perfect tool to encourage students to practice their math skills. Pair students up and have each of them deal a card and either add, subtract, or multiply. The first one to say the answer out loud gets both cards. Face cards are worth 10!