

No-Prep Class Activities with No Materials

See [No-Prep Class Activities with No Materials on Multicultural Kid Blogs](#) for the rationale behind these activities and a more complete explanation.

No-Prep Class Activities with Letter and Words

- Jump or clap for each syllable.
- Spell the word doing an action for each letter, such as jumping or kicking.
- Play 20 Questions to guess a word asking only yes-no questions.
- Students use two words from a word bank on the board to create a funny sentence.
- Name things in a category - red things, things made of plastic, things you see in a kitchen, words that start with the letter m, sticky things, etc.
- Circle a specific letter in a word or sentence on the board.
- From a word bank, circle words with the same initial, intermediate or final sound.
- Give an initial sound or final sound, and students complete the word.
- Learners make a list of words with the same initial or final sounds.
- Students make sentences with repeated initial sounds.
- Use bottle caps with letters written on them to:
 - Practice letter recognition.
 - Order the alphabet.
 - Match lowercase to uppercase.
 - Spell words.
 - Draw a letter and think of a word that begins with that letter.
 - Make a word. Change one letter to make a new word. Change another letter to make a word.
 - Build and connect words crossword-puzzle style.

No-Prep Class Activities With Sentences

- Count the words in a sentence.
- Put a sentence on the board and say one of the words. A student points to it.
- Students substitute a new word for one in the sentence.
- Grow the sentence. Start with a simple sentence and add to it: *The cat eats. The black cat eats. The black cat eats a lot. The big black cat eats a lot. etc.*
- Unscramble words in a sentence.
- Give students words in 3 groups: who, what, rest of sentence (where, when, how). Students build sentences drawing one item from each group.

No-Prep Class Activities In a Notebook

- Dictate 5-10 words for students to write. Students then:
 - Write sentences with the words.
 - Sort the words by meaning, initial sounds, number of syllables, etc.
 - List words that rhyme with words in the list.
 - Write synonyms and antonyms.
- Dictate a sentence omitting a key word. Students complete the sentence in an original way.
- Students each contribute one or two words. They use the words to:
 - Write original sentences using two or more words from the list.
 - Alphabetize the words.
 - Work together to tell a story using the words
- Give students a relatively long word. They make as many words as possible, or any length, using only the letters in that word.
- Students draw a picture according to your spoken instructions. For example: *There is a tree. There is a bird in the tree. Draw a nest for the bird. Below the tree there is a cat. etc.* You can have older students label the parts of the drawing or write a story for the finished illustration.
- Use graphic organizers to tap into what students know about a topic. For example, you can use these [Are-Have-Can Spanish vocabulary graphic organizers](#) for any number of themes. Put the organizer on the board or have students draw it in their notebook, in any language of course.

Storytelling

Tell and retell stories to teach sequencing, vocabulary and language. Use fables, legends, fairy tales, family stories and make up your own.

After you tell a story, students can:

- Put key events you list on the board in order.
- Define words from the story and identify synonyms or antonyms.
- Role play important scenes and conversations.
- Illustrate characters or scenes.
- Answer questions about characters and situations. Would this person be a good friend? What would students have done in the same situation?
- Create a new ending for the story.
- Act out the story as a class.
- Ask students to prepare a story to tell the class.

Music

- Sing traditional folk songs and children's rhymes.
- Incorporate clapping games and rhythms.
- Use songs to talk about rhyme and introduce new vocabulary.
- Have students illustrate a song.
- Older students can write stories based on songs.

No-Prep Class Activities with Numbers

- Skip count around the group by 2, 5, 7, etc.
- One person thinks of a number. Others try to guess by asking only "Is it less than..?", "Is it greater than ...?" questions.
- Give students a string of problems for mental math calculations. For example, you might say "Take 5, add 7, add 10, subtract 20, multiply by 8. What do you have?" (16). You can adapt this for any level.
- Play "Around the World" by giving math problems to two students. The one who answers correctly first stays standing and competes with another student.
- Have students make number cards using $\frac{1}{2}$ of an index card.
 - 2 students each place a pile of cards face down. They each turn over a card. The first one to add (subtract, multiply) the two numbers keeps both cards.
 - 2 students each have a pile of cards face down. They race to 100 by turning over cards (alternating, one at a time) and adding to their personal total. Make a 10 frame in a notebook for an easy board for this game.
- Use bottle caps with numbers written on them to:
 - Practice number recognition.
 - Form numbers. You say 327. They form the number with 3 bottle tops.
 - Sort numbers by odd and even.
 - Make equations.