

Fun in the Classroom Seminar



"Children, Chalk and Chuckles!"

presented by
David Koutsoukis



David Koutsoukis'
SCHOOL MASTERS
Presentations and resources for schools

- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ Student Presentations
- ✓ Educational Resources

www.schoolmasters.com.au
Tel: 1300 85 86 34 Fax: 1300 85 86 35

Presentation Notes

CLASSROOM FUN IDEAS

USING FUN TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Making the Learning Environment Fun

- Classroom décor – is it stimulating, fun?
- Fun pin up board borders
- Student centred – posters, student work etc
- Signs - This is a Smile Zone, Our School's Cool, Smiley Faces etc
- Smiley face paraphernalia
- Fun mobiles
- Fun pictures of kids in funny poses or smiling
- Rearrange desks every now and then – split desks, lines, rows, u-shape, circle, groups, set up like an aeroplane for an aeronautical theme
- Fun with class computers – call your classroom computers names, eg Herbie, Cedric – put a name tag on them - have fun mouse mats – use wallpaper, screen savers or scrolling messages which reflect a positive happy attitude or the theme or topic you may be working. Desktop backgrounds available from www.EduPoppy.com
- Light a candle – symbolism, quiet time
- Soft music
- Aromatherapy – burn scented oils
- Plants, fresh flowers
- Pets, eg goldfish
- Interesting blackboard work – use of colours, balloons, shapes, pictures
- Have a change of scenery every now and then – library, computer room, work outside
- Join with another class and team teach
- Do a session with the rest of year group or learning team

Daily Dose of Fun

- Fun jokes
- Fun facts
- Fun quotes
- Funny picture
- Optical illusions
- Lateral thinking puzzle
- Today's Top Five, 5 ways to eat a watermelon, 5 uses for an elastic band
- Play a tape of laughter
- Do a lucky draw
- Calculator fun
- Word of the week/day (positive or humorous) eg fantastic, excellent, endorphins, hilarious
- Theme days eg Mondays Maths Mania (maths games), Tuesdays Terrific Territories (geography), Wednesdays Wacky Words (fun with words) Thursday Trivia Treat (quizzes, general knowledge), Fridays Fun Frolics (anything goes)
- See also fun activities

Word Fun

- Palindromes
- Spoonerisms
- Oxymora
- Tongue Twisters
- Limericks
- "Net Speak"
- Codes
- Jumbled words – anagrams

- Upside down words – SWIMS
- Rhyming Slang
- Scategories – lists
- Word Sleuths
- Wordles
- Fill the Gap
- Word Bingo
- Word Ladder
- Reflective words – words which are symmetrical when written vertically
- Word Maze
- Write Words with Calculator
- Longest word with given letters
- Dictionary quiz
- 24 Hours in a day
- Catch Phrase
- Eggs fun – words starting with eggs eg, eggsellent, eggsactly, eggsasperating
- <http://www.fun-with-words.com/>

Reward Systems

Group, Individual, Faction

- Stickers and stamps
- Tally Charts
- Badges – tally stickers
- Raffle tickets
- Tokens
- Credit slips
- Lucky dips
- Marble Jar
- Snakes and Ladders
- Rocket to the Moon
- Passport – fill the passport and get a trip to
- Chase the Ace
- Jag the Joker
- Chocolate wheel

Rewards/Prizes

Healthy v Unhealthy debate

Name brands best

- Stickers and stamps
- Lollies
- Freddos
- Ice creams
- Coke
- Chips
- Draughts with ripe raspberries
- Lucky dips
- Pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers etc
- Yu-Gi-Oh (or similar) stickers, fridge magnets
- Cheesie
- The canteen speciality
- Popcorn maker
- Smiley face stuff
- Reward tree

- Play money – auctions \$2 shop stuff
- Game time – learning games

Awards

- Student of the Day/Week
- Citizen of the Day/Week
- WAM (worth a mention) Award
- Smile-O-Grams
- Credit slip – certificates
- Certificates

Fun Theme Days/Weeks

- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Black Friday
- St Patrick Day - green - <http://w3.gwis.com/~ack/IrishK.html>
- Bastille Day
- Smile day/week – everyone wears a smiley sticker – do fun projects

Celebrations

- Birthdays

Civic Fun

- Adopt a spot
- Emu stalk

USING FUN TO DEVELOP POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Developing Rapport with Students

- Wear colourful clothes
- Tell funny stories about yourself or your family
- Show pictures of your kids and/or animals
- Show off any special talents, eg musical instruments
- Show photos of special achievements

Home Room/Form Class Team Building Fun

- Create a class logo or badge
- Groups create a team banner
- Baby photo competition – students, teachers – guess who
- Warm fuzzies
- Secret friends
- Class footy tipping
- Reality TV lotto
- Lucky draws
- Thank Your Lucky Stars
- Sport sweepstakes
- Treasure hunt, eg Easter eggs, Finding Nemo
- After school event – eg pool party at a student's place
- Special lunches, sausage sizzle, order in McDonalds
- Class parties

Team Building Games/Activities for groups, classes or learning teams

- Massage magic
- Touch my can

- Fire in the hole
- Moonball
- Hoop relay
- Knots
- Marshmallow and spaghetti tower

USING FUN TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THEIR LEARNING AND MAKE THE LEARNING STICK

Make the Learning Interesting and Memorable

- Sign language
- Action messages
- Go large - big diagrams spread out on the floor, human body outline – parts
- Walking high fives
- Happy animals
- Happy beach balls
- Pass the chicken
- Circle work - Trains and stations, circle story
- De Bono's six hats - with hats, with balloons
- Dragon slaying, Ghost Busters
- Themes - week, term
- Learning modules
- Fun books, eg Paul Jennings
- Share market game http://www.asx.com.au/education/Games_IE2.shtm
- Kinaesthetic learning activities, eg bean bag shapes/numbers, hoop 'n' target,
- Golf – putt-putt, positive and negative numbers
- 2-up – probability
- Horse racing – odds
- Groups – Wiggles, Beach Boys, Blues Bros
- Suggestion box
- Acronyms
- Mnemonics <http://users.frii.com/geomanda/mnemonics.html>
- Shapes – if your making three points - use a triangle, four points - square, 8 points - octopus etc
- Piece of string – thread everyone on – as they get off they mention one thing they learned from the session
- Incursions, eg Bully Busters
- Excursions, eg Zoo, bush walk
- Music – see Music and Rhythm

Props and gadgets

- Candle – symbolism, quiet time
- Magic tricks, rope, colouring in book <http://www.magictricks.com/stage/colorbk.htm>
- Ping pong ball guns – letters, numbers
- Sling shots
- Space discs
- Inflatables
- Toy bows and arrows
- Clickers
- Hulk hands
- Speedballs
- Big dice

Tapping into things kids like - Youth Culture

- Football – class football tipping
- Football - Eagles “Rock My School” workbook
- Football – West Australian “The Game” cards
- Basketball – basketball/netball shoot, measure the courts
- Extreme Sports – stories, art, bike rally
- Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh cards – reading, maths, relationships, trust, respect, science fiction
- Harry Potter – reading, literature study, comprehension, media
<http://www.curriculumsupport.nsw.edu.au/learningtechnologies/webquests/harrypotter/student/syllabus.htm>
- Lord of the Rings – reading, literature study, comprehension, media
- Teenage Fiction (Glyn Parry)
- Popular Music – studying lyrics, parodies
- Soap Operas – eg, Home and Away, stereotyping, conflict, social issues, script writing

Metaphors

- Silver cup
- Hippy Hippy handshakes
- Fold arms rope
- Rope link
- Making connections - pinkey finger, monkey grip , handshake, Tarzan’s grip
- Jigsaw pieces with kids name on each piece – make up the group

Food

- Maths fractions – pizza
- Measurement - making up recipes
- Measurement – minties
- Colours – smarties
- Shapes – cracker biscuits
- Counting, addition subtraction – edible beads

Practical Activities

- Maths – basketball shots – graph results
- Maths – vortex (or ball) throw – graph results
- Maths – paper plane making and throwing – measurement, construction, graphing
- Maths – measure sporting equipment size or court dimensions

Audio Visual

Use a variety of presentation aids

- Overheads
- PowerPoint
- White board/ fridge magnet
- Felt boards
- Velcro and pin up board
- Videos

Balloons

- Modelling balloons
- Colours-groups
- Bottom Burst
- Burst your bubble
- De Bono’s six hats

Board and other games

- Playing cards – addition, symmetry, classification – see book “Card Capers”

- Dominos – add the numbers
- Numero
- Math Mat Challenge
- Math Bingo
- Mastermind - logic
- Darts
- Safety darts
- Snap it up
- Fishy Addition
- Hooky – numbers or letters
- Bingo – all numbers, rows, columns, diagonal
- Boggle
- Scrabble
- Wheel of Fortune
- Upwords
- Word Yahtzee
- Scategories
- Pictionary
- Trivial Pursuit
- Mind Teaser Puzzles (Kinesthetic), Rubic's cube etc
- Strategy games – chess, draughts, chinese checkers

Fun Activities

Intro's, break-ups (primacy-recency), fillers, ends

Individuals

- Chairobics
- Rub tummy, tap head at the same time
- Swing one arm one way, one the other
- Right foot circle clock wise, draw a 6 in the air
- SIX! #1
- SIX! #2
- Grey elephant in Denmark
- Juggling balls, scarves
- Giant bee hive
- People bingo

Pairs

- Paper scissors stone
- Thumb wrestling
- Do a good turn

Groups or Class

- Mexican wave
- Heads and tails
- Applauses, round, seal of approval, can of applause, standing ovation
- Ding dong
- Fire engine
- Three cheers
- Count off
- Charades
- Celebrity heads
- Head down thumbs up

- Duck, duck goose

Fun Phys Ed Type Activities

- Parachute
- Fun bean bags, gorillas, veges etc
- Grip ball
- Foxtail
- Scoop ball
- Vortex
- Horseshoes

Juggling

Helps learning by stimulating right brain activity

Helps integrate left and right brain

- Juggling balls
- Juggling scarves
- Ed's Juggling Page - <http://www.javabase.fsnet.co.uk/juggler/juggle.html>

Paper fun

- Snowball
- Mr Squiggle
- Four square
- Paper plane making
- Chatter box
- Mazes
- Noughts and Crosses
- Battleships
- SOS
- Complete the Square
- Fill the gaps

Word Fun - link to topic

- Limericks
- "Net Speak"
- Codes
- Jumbled words – anagrams
- Scategories – lists
- Word Sleuths
- Word Bingo
- Word Maze
- Catch Phrase

<http://www.fun-with-words.com/>

Visuals – funny or impressive cartoons or pictures to do with topic

- Posters
- PowerPoint
- Overhead

Fun Projects

- Project on Laughter - Health
- Class Joke Book - English
- Create a "Smile on a Stick" – Art

Group work – Cooperative Learning

- Think pair share

- Popcorn
- Values continuum
- Round table
- Inside outside circles
- Grouping people
- Numbered heads
- Corners
- Place mat
- Graffiti
- Jigsaw
- Ranking ladder
- Interaction action

Mixers / energisers

- Handshake fun
- Vowel chorus
- Pop up
- People poker
- Animal Capers
- Famous Pairs
- Fruit salad
- Groups/categories
- Line ups – height, shoe size, arms length, alphabetically by favourite colour, number of siblings, hair colour light to dark, youngest to oldest, alphabetically by first name, hair length, thumbs on top, fold arms

Quizzes

Boys are motivated by quizzes – Ian Lillico

- “Quiz Night” arrangement
- Geography – where’s the country/city – globe or map
- Popper quiz
- Baseball quiz – 3 strikes and your out
- Music
- Guess the object

Presenting Work

- Charts
- Pack of cards
- Create a post card
- PowerPoint
- Webpage
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Video cassette
- Audio cassette
- Create a time capsule about the topic
- Write an assignment in “Net Speak” http://www.fun-with-words.com/net_lingua.html
- Hieroglyphics – Wingdings font
- Picture stories
- Aboriginal art – picture stories
- Scrolls
- Burnt edges
- Toilet roll

Stickers and stamps

- Sticker story writing
- Sticker art
- Sticker maths – use numbers and signs

Multi Media

- Volcanic Panic - maths
- Dinosaurs - science
- Somazone - health
- See Wooldridges Catalogues

Internet/Websites

- Find great sites
- Develop a webpage
- Publish kids work online
- Free Fun PowerPoints for teachers <http://www.edzone.net/~mwestern/funppt.html>
- Free puzzles etc <http://freeology.com/fun/>
- Jigsaw puzzle - <http://www.jigzone.com/>
- Crosswords - <http://search.teach-nology.com/cgi-bin/crossword.cgi>
- Word sleuth - <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/WordSearchSetupForm.html>
- Other resources and templates <http://www.educationworld.com/>
http://www.edhelper.com/teachers/classroom_helpers.htm

Unexpected unusual sounds

- Alarm clock
- Timer
- Whizzer
- Rizzer
- Hulk hands
- Vibra-slap

Music and Rhythm

To engage students and to help with recall - kids remember pop music lyrics but can't remember lesson info – Music provides rhyme, rhythm, melody and an emotional connection. Can be multi sensory – audio, visual, kinaesthetic. Use music to:

- To help the brain learn, eg Baroque, Mozart
- For relaxation or calm time, eg “atmospheric” music
- To energise and motivate, eg Fanfare for the Common Man, ACDC, Yakkity Sax
- For inspiration, eg Power of the Dream
- To get across messages, eg De Bono’s Six Hat’s
- Use chants to provide repetition and rhythm, eg “Fun is Good”
- Use drum beats or clapping to provide rhythm, eg “All the Girls Go Eh Oh”
- Do actions to provide a visual and kinaesthetic element to music, eg “Psychological Sunshine”
- Movement – marching, dancing
- Do parodies of songs or TV ads
- Use songs as discussion stimulators, eg Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds
- Teach about different cultures, eg Indonesia
- Use rhythms as cues – dum da da dad a, dum dum
- Use music for routines – hello, goodbye, clean up

Bonus Section

The following notes are ideas that have been collected from practicing teachers during seminars. You might get some more good ideas here.

ROUGH NOTES FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

SHARING OUR COLLECTIVE SKILLS AT HAVING FUN IN THE CLASSROOM

Outcomes participants needed from the seminar:

- Quick, practical ideas for lesson breaks
- To engage kids
- A diversion from negative behaviour
- To have fun, lighten up, but still feel in control of the increased level of activity
- To provide team building activities that all can participate in within a non-threatening environment
- To build a sense of community

FUN WAYS TO BUILD HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE WORKPLACES/CLASSROOMS

Currently used ideas of participants

- Have seashells and other interesting items decorating the walls of the classroom
- Funny and profound sayings posted on the walls – fun for students and staff
- Start a drawing at the beginning of the week, complete it as the week progresses, and kids have to guess what the drawing is going to be before it is completed.
- Garden area which kids take ownership/responsibility for to watch things grow. Visiting the garden can be a reward for some and a distraction from spiraling negative behaviour for others.
- Pets, for which care is shared
- Water feature in the classroom, plants. Can ask the kids to listen to the water feature – they have to be really quiet to hear it! Can reduce noisy situations.
- "Desk Lotto". Names of kids are put into a hat and drawn out. The kids can choose a new seat to sit in. This can be done randomly or regularly.
- Weekly desk swap as part of a "Fun Friday" or "Monday Mates"
- Rearrange desks for different lessons: lines are drawn on the floor to guide the different configurations.
- "Traffic Lights" Teacher indicates on virtual traffic lights the tone of the classroom. When things are going well the green light is displayed through to red where the teacher indicates the class is too chaotic and calm needs to be restored.
- HINT: Don't use green on blackboards as many cannot see green. Purple is a very good colour.
- Team teaching for certain subjects.
- Blend year groups for certain subjects eg) Year 7's could help the Year 1's to read or print.
- Some classes could blend to share a class with another – teachers with particular skills in a certain area to take the class. Provides variety/interest for kids and teachers.
- Get kids to tell jokes to the whole class.

REWARDS

- Catch them being good as opposed to being bad
- Limit the competitiveness by having breaks from rewards for a period of time or limiting the number of rewards kids can get to encourage others to strive for achievement and rewards
- Kids can earn "Behaviour Bucks" which buy them specific rewards. Particularly directed at difficult children, so need to be wary of unintended consequences of being seen as "bad" in order to be part of the special rewards scheme.
- Rewards at the end of term, trying to make it possible for all kids to achieve the rewards.
- When a child does something terrific, the whole class is invited to sing along to the first two lines of "You're just too good to be true". The enjoyment is shared with the whole class.
- CHOOSE to have fun for the day – this is an attitude taken into the class at the start of the day.
- "V-mail". If positive behaviour /virtue is displayed, another person will write a v-mail congratulating that person on their specific positive action and post it to them within the class.

- Balloons with sand inside make great juggling balls.
- Scrunched up paper can also make great juggling balls
- Make your own teacher greeting a joyful "Happy Day" or hello "Lovely Sarah, Lovely Jeremy " etc.
- Make a competition out of outdoing each other's compliments to each other
- NOTE: One has to be in good physical and mental condition to form a positive attitude, leading to positive actions for fun in the classroom. We need to keep ourselves fit and healthy.

USING FUN TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS

- "Line-up" variations – line up in groups of people depending on the month they were born, age, k height, seasons born in, number of children/siblings you have. Can blend this activity with maths – frequency, distribution etc.
- Team Building Games
- 4 reds, 4 blues,(Bean bags) 1 ball. Each child has to be in contact with each of these items, needing to cooperate with others to achieve it.
- "Out of the Nest" – teams of kids race to get out of their "nest" to retrieve items and collect for the group. Competition.
- "Greeting Calls" Kids are given identities with eg apples – they have special "call signs" to acknowledge each other.
- The "Chain Game"- 2 hours to play so may be used as an S and E topic. Each group of kids has a set of resources needed to make a paper chain and must "trade" some resources to achieve their goals. The teacher is the head of the United Nations and can trade needed resources to help the paper chain to be built.
This is a cooperative game, working together to achieve their goal.

THEMES

- Have theme days, weeks, terms – to help demonstrate topics being studied
- Fruit and Veg week. Bring in exotic fruits and ask kids to match up their exotic names, try to guess their tastes, try to guess what shape is in the middle. Make celery curls!
- Literature day – kids can choose a short story to study and then do activities around that story/topic.
- Foundation Day theme. A whole week was planned by a committee of teachers and parents and a series of activities helped teach about Foundation Day. Each child ends up with a Western Australian diary. Use yellow paper to make it look old.
- "Choose an activity week"
- Term theme. Australian Animals. An assembly line was developed to make and sell cards of Australian animals. The proceeds went to the ecology of the animals.
- "Business theme" Set up activities demonstrating all the steps in the chain to sell a product. Eg; making the items, marketing, job interviews, advertising etc. Constructive and fun.

FUN BOOKS - TITLES

- "Liminy Snickett: A Series of Unfortunate Events" suitable for 8 – 10 years
- "Holes" by Louis Sacher. There are activities on the internet related to this book.
- "Blackline Masters" by Paul Jennings
- "Charlotte's Web" (Year 1-4)
- Andy Griffiths reading stories
- "Tashe" series (Year3)
- Asterix comic books, especially for those not good at reading
- Dr Suess
- "My Naughty Little Sister" by Dorothy Edwards (Years 1 plus)
- Morris Gleizman "Issues books"
- Aussie Bite series
- "Buggalugs Bum Thief" by Tim Winton
- "Thing Alison Ashle" (Work pack on the web)
- Picture books by Mem Fox
- "Pooh"
- "Rabbits" by John Marsden, illustrated by Shaun Tan
- "The Man Who Loved Making Boxes"
- "Horrible History"

- Captain Underpants
- Bugalugs Bum Thief
- Roald Dahl books
- Selby series
- Andy Griffiths – Disgusting
- Terry Denton series
- “Fractured Fairytales”
- “Stinky Cheesemen”

FUN WAYS TO TEACH CERTAIN SUBJECTS

- www.sporttime.com.au has a catalogue of learning aids related to sporting topics
- Introduce “two – up” when studying Anzac Day
- Mnemonics to remember hard to spell words
- Skip/ rhymes to help remember themes/words
- S.E.X. Sign a statement, Have Evidence and an explanation
- Use props and gadgets – don’t have to be expensive
- Eagles School Packs – ask for Kim Hannah at the Eagles club for the Rock My School packs
- AFL Ambassador packs are linked to school curriculum outcomes.
- Coffee break section of the West Australian Newspaper have great activities suitable to school kids
- “GO LARGE” with certain activities. Eg) Play noughts and crosses using chairs
- Battleships
- Alpha-numeric grids
- Making a Web – start with a ball of string and a circle of children, throw it to another child who holds on to the string before throwing the rest of the ball across the circle until there is a “web” in the middle. At each throw the child must call out things related to the topic eg_ name of a country, colour, body part etc.

BALLOONS

- Balloons – use them blown up to demonstrate the poles on the earth or tropics of cancer and Capricorn and the Equator.
- Put letters on balloons and ask kids to move to others to help make up three letter words. Make it easy for kids learning to read so they achieve easily.

OTHER IDEAS

- “Spare Book” used to doodle in eg) when being read a story by the teacher – directs fidgety hands to a blank page for drawing /doodling/ anything.
- “Dice Dilemmas” Quiz is a good book for use teaching maths
- Use Teacher’s Union card for discounts at FAL

MORE FUN IDEAS

- Quiz Day /Night
- Bring in a favourite song to play at the beginning or end of the lesson
- Bring in wheelchair/visual aids to engage kids in a lesson pertaining to a particular topic, eg: do lesson in wheelchair if talking about disability.
- Music used during the lesson – fun or otherwise
- Games afternoon at the end of the week as a reward for good behaviour
- “Health Basketball” games as part of the lesson
- Human tic-tac-toe – very large movements
- Lesson on the oval where kids can be very loud
- Calming music to settle kids before a lesson
- Invent a game to incorporate into a lesson
- Class challenges between classes of the same age or between groups within a class
- “Quartermaster Store” song

CLASSROOM SET UPS – PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE CLASSROOM

- Sit on the floor and use class clipboards as desks
- Desks facing the wall
- Central seating arrangement for majority of students, with single seats on the periphery. Coming to the central seating is seen as a reward or desirable.
- Computers: put kids work on as a screen saver or several kids work as a “rolling power point”. Kids love to see their work on display.
- Plastic plants to decorate classroom
- Cartoon characters on the blackboard who “ask” the children to do certain things related to the lesson for the day.eg) “Bring your blue health files with you to the floor and have ready a thought on how to save the planet”

REWARDS

- Values auction
- Credit slips to cash in for rewards
- Lucky draw
- Bingo Boards with buttons
- Group points aligned to whole of class rewards
- Leap Frog – 5 lily pads of good behaviour/work lead to a reward. Visual movement towards the reward.
- “Class Parliament”
- Tokens – 3 signatures per token earned is marked on a class continuum to a pre-negotiated class reward. Individual sub-rewards for kids with the most signatures on their tokens.
- Entertainment Book vouchers
- Positive letters to child and parent for great work/attitude/achievement which leads onto further rewards

TEENAGER BOOKS

- John Marsden
- Emily Rodder
- “Anna’s Story” – youth culture/drugs

OTHER TOOLS FOR LEARNING

- Fractions – using a Pie graph
- Food Learning ideas – Smarties in a circle of a pie graph to demonstrate fractions, percentages.
- “Chocolate theme” across all subjects
- “Price is Right” to demonstrate maths concepts
- Litmus paper to demonstrate colours
- Go to a restaurant of the culture you are studying in class
- Use food containers to examine ingredients

PRACTICAL IDEAS

- Radical Ramp races
- Challenges for T and E to demonstrate different power sources
- Making “Slime” recipe
- Balloon races
- Story on a ball – one balloon for each child or on one large balloon
- Balloon raft – balloons under a large old door laid flat. Kids stand on the door and try to burst the balloons
- Trying to get kids to roll their hands in opposite directions
- One answer to all questions eg) “Noodles”. Children ask all sorts of questions to a child who must answer “noodles” without laughing.
- Use impact noise toys