

Grouping Techniques

Pooja Giri

Level: Primary/ upper primary

Materials: Colourful chits

Objectives: To use kinesthetic ways of forming groups and also revise vocabulary.

Rationale: Most often teachers use numbers to form groups. They ask the students to count themselves as 1, 2, 3, etc. and according to the number assigned they are asked to form a group and then a group work is assigned. Using numbers is a quick way of forming groups, however repetition of the same technique leads to monotony. Hence, use of different ways of grouping adds variety and also arouses the interests of students.

Procedure: Suppose there are 25 students and you want them to be divided into five groups each. Take five chits of different colours and for each set of 5, write the names of one animal family.

Examples

- Set I - Mother cat, father cat (Tom), kitten 1, kitten 2 and kitten 3
- Set II - Mother tiger (tigress) father tiger, cub 1, cub 2 and cub 3
- Set III - Mother snake, father snake, baby snake 1, baby snake 2 and baby snake 3
- Set IV- Mother crow, father crow, baby crow 1, baby crow 2, baby crow 3
- Set V - Mother sheep, father sheep, lamb 1, lamb 2 and lamb 3.

Next distribute the chits and instruct them clearly that while forming groups they should produce the sound of the animals. For example:

- Set I- Cat family (mew)
- Set II- Tiger family (roar)
- Set III- Snake family (hiss)
- Set IV - Crow family (caw)
- Set V- Sheep family (Baa)

Note: Do not earmark/announce places in class for students to form groups. Example the teacher says, “Snake group stand nearby the board, sheep near the door or crow to the left corner.” Announcing the positions before hand, will reduce the fun.

- If you think that the class would be noisy because of the sounds of the animals and birds, you can ask some of the groups to show only gestures. For example, tiger— prowling, crow—flapping of wings. Snake—one hand raised like a snake, etc.
- Once the students form their respective groups, any group activity can be conducted.

Forming Group 2

Level: Upper Primary and above

Materials: Colourful Chits

Procedure: For a class of 25 to be divided into groups of 5. Select five professions, for example:

- Teacher
- Doctor
- Football player
- Driver
- Singer

Prepare 5 chits for each profession and distribute in class. Instruct the students that while forming groups. They should show the typical gesture representing the profession.

Example

- Teacher: holding a chalk and writing on a board
- Doctor: using a stethoscope and checking a patient
- Football player: kicking the ball

- Driver: driving steering wheel
- Singer: holding the mike and singing

Once the students form their respective groups, any other group activity can be conducted.

Given below are three alternative ways of forming groups:

1. Musical instruments (violin, drum, guitar, trumpet, piano, etc.): Distribute chits with the names of the musical instruments or you can give pictures too. Ask the students to produce the sound of these musical instruments and show the gesture/action of playing the instrument.
2. Games: Give pictures/names of different games—football, cricket, hockey, badminton, etc: students show the gesture/action of playing the instrument.
3. Dresses: Give pictures/names of different dresses—cap, tie, shoes, court, skirt, pant, etc. students show the gesture/action of playing the instrument.

*Pooja Giri is lecturer at RIESI, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru with fourteen years of experience and specializes in methods and materials.
riesi.pooja2018@gmail.com*