

Fun Vocabulary Games and Activities

Word Wall Games:

1. **Baseball-** Students “bat” by throwing a soft ball at the word wall with their eyes closed and then turn around. The catcher identifies which word was hit and reads the definition to the word. If the student can tell what word the definition is for, they move to first base. Each incorrect answer is an out for that team.
2. **Bouncy ball-** students bounce the ball on the floor and it hits a word on the word wall. The word or definition is read by another student and the student that threw the ball needs to answer with the corresponding word or definition. Students can work on teams and earn points for their team for each correct answer.

Vocabulary Sorts and Activities:

3. **Venn Diagram-** place two hula hoops on the floor crossing in the middle to create the Venn diagram. Each circle can be identifies as a certain category, such as Multiples of 3 and Factors of 72. Students can complete the hula hoop Venn diagram by placing number cards within the correct part of the circle. They can then copy their diagram onto paper if needed. This web site is a great resource to create your own Venn diagrams:
<http://www.worksheetworks.com/miscellanea/graphic-organizers/venn.html>
4. **Hula Hoop sort-** place hoops on the ground and label each with a category. For example each hoop can be one math strand: geometry, number sense, algebra, and data. Students can sort vocabulary cards or write on post-its to assign each word to their correct category.
5. **Mystery Word-** tape cards onto students’ backs (or put headbands on) with a vocabulary word written. Students can walk around asking other students questions about their word to figure out which word they have. Students may only answer yes or no to the questions asked of them. Adaptation: ask students to group themselves according to categories such as geometry, algebra, number sense, and data.
6. **Vocabulary Bingo-** Make your own and read a definition then ask students to cross off the word, or use this premade game from NCTM. <http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?id=L806> Blank cards are also included on this page to download if you like.
7. **Twenty Questions-** The teacher can do this as a class activity or students can do with a partner or small group. The leader thinks of one vocabulary word (ex: divisor) and others ask yes and no questions until they either reach 20 questions or guess the word.
8. **Math Charades-** A student or group of students needs to act out a word as others try to guess.
9. **I have . . . Who has?-** The teacher creates a complete cycle of questions and answering vocabulary words so that the first person who starts is actually the answer to the last card. (ex: I have equilateral triangle. Who has a three sided shape with no equal sides?)