

12 Ways to Pick Teams for Children

Team games encourage community. They offer a chance to belong to a group and work together in competition. Dividing teams in ways that reduce comparing one child to another creates an opportunity to focus on building skill, respecting the physical talent of others, and including everyone. Below are several ways to pick teams fairly.



1. Put checkers in a paper bag and ask each student to pull one out. Red checkers go on one team, black on the other.
2. Hold a deck of playing cards face down and let students pick a card. Divide teams by card color or number.
3. Take the number of letters in the student's first (or last) name – five or fewer letters on one team, six or more on the other.
4. Line up by birthday and count down the list by two to split into groups.
5. Choose teams according to a student's favorite pet, or the type of pet(s) owned.
6. Separate teams alphabetically by first, middle, or last name.
7. Decide which shirt colors will be on the same team, and divide by the color of shirt each student has on that day.
8. Put marbles in a bag and decide which colors will be on the same team. Then, let each student pick a marble out of the bag.
9. Line up by height, and then count up (or down) the line by two to split into groups.
10. Use the students' number of siblings. Students with 1 or no siblings are on one team, students with 2 or more on the other.
11. Pass a coin, and let each student flip for heads or tails.
12. Group students by their favorite pizza toppings, then choose which groups will be on a team together.

Students can divide into groups and brainstorm more ways to pick teams fairly.

Treating others with kindness while playing games is taught during the BJC School Outreach and Youth Development Buddies program. For more information about Buddies, call our School Program Line at 314-286-0460.