

Addition Tic Tac Toe

Introduction: Children love to play tic tac toe. With this activity, students will be able to play a version of tic tac toe and practice addition at the same time. The children should get their arm muscles ready to throw some bean bags and their brains ready to do some addition!

Grade Level and Subject: 3rd Grade Math and P.E.

TEKS: Math – 3A (*STAAR Supporting Standard), 3B (*STAAR Readiness Standard)
P.E. – 1J, 2B, 3A, 7A

Materials: Chalk, one bean bag for every student

Activity: Students need to be on the concrete portion of the playground for this activity as it will involve drawing tic tac toe boards on the concrete.

Each student will find a place on the concrete and will draw a tic tac toe board consisting of two lines drawn parallel to each other horizontally and two vertical lines drawn on top of the horizontal lines. This will make nine “boxes,” or areas for the bean bags to fit in. Students should ensure that the “boxes” are drawn large enough for the bean bags to fit in and are not too small.

Students will then place numbers inside each box. The numbers will be called out by the teacher, and the students can place the numbers in any of the 9 boxes of their tic tac toe boards. These numbers are actually the sums of math addition problems that will be called out by the teacher.

Students should take three large steps backwards and collect the bean bags needed to use during the activity. The teacher will call out a math addition problem in which the sum is one of the numbers previously given by the teacher to the students to place in their “boxes.” The students, once getting the correct sum, will throw their bean bags to the box with the correct sum. If the bean bag lands in the incorrect box, the students can get it and throw it again until it lands in the preferred box. If the students need something to write the problem on to get the correct sum, they should write with the chalk on the concrete. Once all students have thrown their bean bags to their preferred boxes, the teacher will walk around to see if the students have the correct sum to the addition problem. Those students with the correct sum get a point. The students can keep a tally of their points with the chalk on the concrete. After the teacher has checked every student’s tic tac toe board, the students may retrieve their bean bags, take 3 large steps backwards, and get ready for the next addition problem. The game will continue until all of the 9 problems have been called out by the teacher. At this point, the activity may end or the teacher can give another 9 sums for the students to place in the boxes, and another game can begin.

Evaluation: The teacher will observe to see which students, if any, are having difficulty finding the correct sum. The teacher then needs to plan for additional instruction for those students.



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