

Four Square Facts

Introduction: Four Square is an interesting game, and students seem to love playing it. Combining Four Square with an academic objective adds a challenge for the students. They will like relating important events in a story while playing the game.

Grade Level and Subject: 2nd Grade Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading – 9C
P.E. – 1F, 2A, 3A, 3B, 3C, 6B, 7A, 7B

Materials: Playground balls, chalk if needed

Resource: *The Ultimate Playground & Recess Game Book* by Guy Bailey. ISBN: 0-9669727-2-4

Activity: Four Square is a great game to play. If the playground does not come equipped with Four Square game courts already drawn, the teacher should draw some with chalk for this activity. Each game court should consist of four adjoining squares inside a larger square. These smaller squares should be labeled A, B, C, and D. The size of the total larger square should be about $8' \times 8'$. The teacher will divide the students into groups of four and should have a Four Square court for each group of students.

Before the students play Four Square, the teacher should read a short story. He or she should discuss the important events of the story in sequential order. Once the students are comfortable with the order of the story (they may even write the events in order before this activity), they are to move to the playground. The teacher will divide them into groups of four, and the students will step into the Four Square courts. Each group will be handed a ball, and whoever is in square A for each group will start the activity. The child in square A will relate the first important event of the story and then bounce the ball to the student in square B. That student will tell the next important event from the story and bounce the ball to the student in square C. Play will continue in this manner until all important events have been “played” in order. Once the students are confident the events of the story are in proper sequential order, they will call the teacher to their group. He or she will then listen as the students perform the activity, placing the events in order while bouncing the ball from player to player. Play ends when the group has successfully performed the story for the teacher.

The teacher, depending on the availability of time, may wish to read a second story to the students and have them “play” or “bounce” this story in sequential order as well.

Evaluation: The teacher will listen to the students as they “bounce” the story events, along with the ball, to each other. If the students are incorrect, the teacher may want to retell or reread the story to that particular group and have them correct their events from the story.



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