Fraction Tag

Introduction: The concept of fractions can be difficult for some students to master. This activity combines learning equivalent fractions with tag—an all-time playground favorite. The students will like this fast-paced game and will practice developing equivalent fractions at the same time.

Grade Level and Subject: Fifth Grade Math and P.E.

TEKS: Math 2A
P.E. 1B, 1L, 2C, 3A, 7A

Materials: an equivalent fraction card (a note card with a listing of equivalent fractions that the students have learned in class)

Resource: 201 Games for the Elementary Physical Education Program by Jerry D. Poppen.
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Activity: This activity begins as a good, old-fashioned game of tag. It can be played on the playground or in the gym. The teacher should choose one player to be “it” while another player is to be the “fraction expert.” The “fraction expert” should have a card with equivalent fractions written on it. These fractions should represent the fractions being learned in the classroom.

At a given signal, the game of tag begins. The child labeled “it” will chase his or her classmates in the designated area. Once a child has been tagged, he or she is to stop immediately and begin jumping up and down at the spot where he or she was tagged. The “fraction expert” will then run to the jumping student and call out a fraction. The tagged (jumping) student will respond with an equivalent fraction. If he or she has correctly given an equivalent fraction, he or she may enter the game again. If an equivalent fraction cannot be given by the student, the “fraction expert” is to run with that student to the teacher for a quick review of equivalent fractions. That student is then allowed to rejoin the game and try again.

Once the teacher has given a signal, all play is to stop. The teacher can let the children rest briefly before choosing different students to be “it” and the “fraction expert.”

Evaluation: The teacher is responsible for teaching quick, mini-lessons to those students who cannot respond to the “fraction expert” with an equivalent fraction.