Jumping Multiples

Introduction: Learning multiplication facts can be difficult for the child who has a hard time memorizing facts. Hopefully, this activity will provide an easier way for students to memorize multiplication facts. The lesson is fun, easy, and a great way to learn a concept.

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

TEKS: Math 4C
P.E. 1D, 1F, 3A, 3D, 5A, 7A, 7C

Materials: individual jump ropes for every student


Activity: After teaching multiplication facts, the teacher can plan for this activity. The teacher should take the students to the playground, but the gym can be used as long as students have sufficient room to jump rope.

At the playground, the teacher should begin the activity by placing the students in areas that allow for much personal room. The students are to get their jump ropes ready by holding them by the handles with the rope poised to swing over the student’s head.

The teacher should then begin calling out math multiples. For example, he or she should say, “We will now review the multiples (or products) of the three times table.” Starting with zero, the teacher will call out multiples of three. As he or she calls out the multiples of three, the students jump with each multiple called out. The students can call out the multiples also, if they choose.

To make the activity more interesting, the students can try the suggested rope challenges shown below. The students might want to practice these challenges before combining the jumping rope with the multiples.

- **Single Jump**: The student jumps once, off both feet, for every turn of the rope.
- **Backward Swing**: The student turns the rope backwards and tries jumping.
- **Side Swing and Jump**: The student swings the rope, held with both hands, to one side of the body and then the other. After performing the two side swings, the student should jump once, off both feet. The student will repeat the swing-swing-jump pattern.
- **Mountain Climber**: The student starts in a stride position (with one leg in front of the other). As the rope passes underneath, the student jumps into the air and reverses the position of the feet.
- **Cross Legs**: The student jumps, off both feet, with his or her feet straddled wide. On the second turn, the student jumps with the right foot in front of the left. On the third turn of the rope, he or she straddles with his or her feet apart. On the fourth turn, the student crosses the left foot in front of the right. The pattern should continue to be repeated.

Evaluation: The teacher will call out the multiples as students jump rope. He or she will closely monitor and observe all activity.