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Fabulous Flash Card Games

Kaboom

Play this game by taking two of your cards and writing the word “BOOM” on them. Turn all the cards face down and spread them out randomly on the table. As you take turns selecting a card, if you can answer correctly then you get to keep it. If the card has BOOM on it then you have to return ALL of your cards to the center of the table.

You can play for a set amount of time or to a pre-determined number of cards. You can also add variety by adding a “SHAKALAKA” card. If you draw that card, then you get to take all of your opponents’ cards as well. Kaboom is best played with homemade cards, because it is important that the BOOM cards you make for the game look exactly like the others.

Slap

Spread out your flash cards on the table face up. One person is the caller and calls out the answer — number for math fact, sight word, phonogram sound, definition for vocabulary, etc. The first player to slap the correct card gets to keep it.

This game works great for everyone from preschoolers learning their letters to middle school kids reviewing science vocabulary. You just have to make sure they only slap the cards and not each other. Play for a pre-determined amount of time, a set number, or until all the cards are gone. The person with the most cards wins.

Climb the Stairs

Use a fat marker to draw a quick staircase on large paper or use an actual set of stairs in your home to play this fun game. You will need to have two-five more cards than you have stairs. The more extra cards you have, the more chances your student will have to win.

If you are using paper stairs, use a marker (button, penny, teddy bear counter). When the student answers a question correctly he moves his marker to the next stair. If the answer is incorrect, he has to stay put. Miss too many, and he can’t make it to the top of the stairs.

We have fun playing the live-action version of this game. My son sits on the steps and gets to move to the next one with each correct answer. This can also work with two players. Just double the number of cards and take turns, making sure everyone gets the same number of turns. Either the first one to the top will win or there will be a tie.

Flash

The flash card version of Bingo, this takes a few minutes of prep time for mom. Use the Flash template (provided on the next page) to create an answer card variation for each player — write in math answers, Latin vocabulary, letters for preschoolers, etc. This works best when you have at least 24 distinct items to review (ie. none of the answers repeat).

You will use your discard stack of cards to determine if the winner was correct. For older kids this works best with two or more players, but preschoolers and kindergarteners will sit and play it alone for a long time just for the novelty of playing.

Around We Go

Place the cards in a LARGE circle on the floor. Grab a die, roll and move that number around the circle. When you land on a card, if you can answer it correctly you get to keep it. Incorrect cards get returned and the next person has a turn. Play until all the cards are collected.

If I am playing this one as an adult with a younger child I always “miss” a few to see if they can catch me in my mistake and also to even up the playing field. Another variation of this game is to place the cards in a smaller circle on the table and use one of the child’s favorite toy characters to travel around the circle. Sometimes using the character is extra motivation, while other times they just need to get up and move.

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