

Shark Fin Scooter TagTM

Item #14637

What are the Educational Applications?

This activity is in compliance with New Jersey Core Curriculum Standard #2.5 and National Standards 1 through 6.

The skills of dodging and fleeing are a staple of the elementary physical education class. This activity gives the students an opportunity of applying these skills. It has the added dimension of developing arm strength as the students use scooters for this game and ride on their stomachs. Cooperative team skills can also be applied when multiple sharks are used. There is no elimination aspect to this game, allowing for maximum participation and opportunity to practice skills introduced.

Activities:

ACTIVITY #1: Sharks and Swimmers (or Sharks and Minnows)

Class Organization: Students get a partner and one scooter to be shared with their partner.

Set up: Designate an area along one wall of the gym/all purpose room. This area is the "beach" where the sharks (taggers) may not come. The area should be wide enough to accommodate the full length of a student lying on a scooter. The rest of the gym is the "ocean" where the sharks swim freely. Sharks and swimmers ride the scooters on their stomachs using the arms and legs to propel themselves.

Procedure: Select two students to be the Sharks (taggers). On the go signal, (I usually use the soundtrack from the movie "Jaws".) the swimmers attempt to swim out to the far wall and back to the beach without being tagged. Partners take turns with a shared scooter. This allows a brief rest period for arms and legs, and reduces neck strain. The sharks attempt to tag the swimmers. A tagged swimmer must stand up, walk back to shore, give the scooter to their partner and await their next turn. Change sharks frequently.

Rules: All participants must ride on their stomachs and remain on their scooters at all times. Running and jumping onto the scooter is not allowed.

ACTIVITY #2: Sharks and Seals

This activity involves the cooperative skills, teamwork, as well as dodging, fleeing, and strategy.

Have the group form a circle. One person is designated as the "shark" and another is designated as the "seal".

The object of the activity is for the seal to evade the shark and the shark to tag the seal. Start the shark and seal on opposite sides of the outside of the circle. Both the shark and seal can move outside, inside, or weave through the students forming the circle. When the seal passes between two students, those two students join hands and remain joined. The shark cannot pass through this opening as it is now closed. The shark cannot reach over joined hands. The seal uses strategy to close the circle and avoid the shark.

The game can continue until the circle is completely closed trapping the shark outside with the seal safely inside or the shark inside with the seal safely outside. The game can also be a timed event to allow ample opportunity for all students to either be a shark or a seal.

Between rounds, have the class develop and discuss various strategies the seal can use to avoid the shark.

How Does this Product Relate to Current Educational Thinking?

The Council on Physical Education for Children (COPEC) developed the position statement: "Developmentally Appropriate Physical Education Practices for Children". Twenty-six components of a physical education program have been identified. Developmentally appropriate and inappropriate examples are provided as guidelines for recognizing the best practices (appropriate) and the most counterproductive practices (inappropriate). These guidelines are useful as a decision-making tool for developing quality physical education programs.

Active Participation for Every Child - Appropriate Practices

All children are involved in activities that allow them to remain continuously active. Classes are designed to meet a child's need for active participation in all learning experiences.

Competition - Appropriate Practices

Activities emphasize self-improvement, participation, and cooperation instead of winning and losing.

Gender Directed Activities - Appropriate Practices

Girls and boys have equal access to individual, partner, small group, and team activities. Both girls and boys are equally encouraged, supported, and socialized towards successful achievement in all realms of physical activities.



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In the US: FlagHouse, 601 FlagHouse Drive, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604-3116 Phone 800.793.7900 201.288.7600 Fax 800.793.7922

In Canada: FlagHouse Canada, 235 Yorkland Blvd., Suite 105, North York, Ontario M2J 4Y8 Phone 800.265.6900 416.495.8262 Fax 800.265.6922

International Customers: FlagHouse, 601 FlagHouse Drive, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, 07604-3116 USA Phone 201.288.7600 Fax 201.288.7887