

Name/Title: Expert Pins

Purpose of Event: The purpose of this activity is to have children go to other children for help. They will speak up and feel important because they are helping out like the teacher.

Prerequisites: Students will need to demonstrate that they have an understanding of the skill or concept being taught. In addition, they will need to understand their roll as an "expert" if they are wearing an "Expert Pin".

Suggested Grade Level: 3-5

Materials Needed: Clothespins, sport stickers.

Description of Idea

This activity involves cooperation, working together, and leadership skills. Make a bunch of clothespins with sports stickers on them. Each pin is decorated with one sport, these are the "Expert Pins". Have enough for everyone in the class. Explain to the students that after we learn a skill and you see them becoming better at it they will receive an expert pin. This means they are an expert and now other kids can go to them and ask for help on the skill. Eventually the entire class is wearing a pin because they have all improved on a skill. The kids love to wear the pins and feel important. They know that they are learning and they love to help out each other. Simply clip the pin to their sleeve or shirt.

Assessment Ideas:

I assess by visually watching the kids helping each other. I now know that they have learned what I taught them.

Teaching Suggestions:

To simplify the instructional process, focus the skill development on specific parts of the skill such as fingertips for dribbling a ball or hand position while catching.

If the pins are used in all skill settings, you may have students who never or seldom get a pin. To protect children from feeling inadequate, use the pins periodically or infrequently instead of all the time. You may want to select very different types of skills to enhance the opportunity for all students to be the experts.

Adaptations for Students with Disabilities:

Instead of a pin you can just stick the sticker on them or make a paper award and tape it to them.

Submitted by **Lori Domagalski** who teaches at Eisenhower Elementary in South Holland, IL. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 3/9/2004.**

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