

Name/Title: Leprechaun Treasure Hunt

Academic content: Math computations and graphing

Purpose of Event: To improve visual awareness by remembering which cones have been looked under and to integrate math with a physical activity.

Prerequisites: Understand relays and teamwork.

Suggested Grade Level: K-2

Materials Needed: 25-40 small plastic cones (If there are not enough small cones available, polypots will work as well.), laminated pictures of shamrocks, leprechauns, and pots of gold, 6-8 large cones, 6-8 hula hoops

Physical activity: Running

Description of Idea

Set up: Spread cones randomly around the gym floor. Place a picture of a shamrock, pot of gold or leprechaun under each cone or polypot. Place the large cones in the front of the gym and the hula hoops next to the cones. Have enough equipment so there is one cone and hoop per three children. Divide the class into teams of three and line them up behind the starting cones.

Directions: Explain to the children that this will be a relay race. The first child on each team will run out, anywhere in the gym, and look underneath one cone. If they find something, they will bring it back and place it in their team's hula hoop. If they do not find anything under the cone they chose, they will run back and tag the next player. While one team member is looking under a cone, the other team members are paying close attention to which cones have been looked under. The teams continue until there are no more items to be found. Once all the items are collected, the teams will "add up" their findings. Explain that each item has a point value. For example: the shamrocks are worth 1 point, the pots of gold are worth 2 points and if a lucky leprechaun is found, he is worth 3 points. The point value can be adjusted according to the grade level of the children. Each team can write the amount on a small piece of paper, then bring it over to a wall chart to record their total amount. Instead of making it competitive, talk about cooperation and how each team has contributed to the total amount. Another math activity could be to chart a graph of the number of each of the items found. Each team can record how many leprechauns, pots of gold and shamrocks they collected. A bar graph with a different bar for each item can be used and each team can record their results with a different color crayon or marker, so they can see how many of each item was collected by each team.

Variations:

This game can be played with older students. Just vary the amount of value given to each item to make the math challenge more interesting!

Assessment Ideas:

See if the children understand the concept of relays and teamwork. Check for children's visual awareness in noticing which cones or polyspots have already been looked under.

Adaptations for Students with Disabilities:

Place the cones where they are easily accessible and leave space for handicapped children to maneuver around.

Submitted by **Stefanie Frankel** who teaches at Lawrence Woodmere Academy in Woodmere, NY. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 4/17/2004.**

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