

# Techniques used for Organizing and Teaching Games

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*Over the years I have learned that there are some “tips” that can be used in an elementary level setting when introducing new games and activities to the students. These organizational and suggested techniques can save time and effort therefore giving the students the full benefit of your time with them.*

1. Obtain the attention of all the participants before explaining the game. This can be done a variety of ways.. ( hand claps, raising hands, a catchy phrase or song.)
2. Using a warm-up first (such as jogging a lap) can help better obtain attention.
3. Announcing the game first can be a time waster. Hearing the name first seems to often stimulate the children to such a degree that time a effort must be spent to regain their attention. Give the directions first making sure they are clear then give the name of the game.
4. When explaining or demonstrating the teacher should have the view of all the students. I always say “make sure I can see your eyes” in order to insure all the students are easily seen.
5. When possible get the group into the game formation before the demonstration or explanation.
6. A demonstration of how the game is played is often more effective than an explanation.

7. If the rules are complex, have a “practice run”, then ask if there are any questions. Be sure all students are attentive during the question and answer period.

8. Whenever possible any corrections needed should be made without stopping the game. Only correct one item at a time to avoid confusion.

9. I avoid scoring games as much as possible. However, in the upper level (4th-6th grade) some type of scoring or small fun consequence system can stimulate interest thus get more interest and involvement from players

10. If a specific skill is important to play the game, relays can be helpful in teaching that technique or skill before the game is introduced.

11. To spike interest or insure game succ the teacher can be the first “it” in a game. chose an alert student to begin the play.

12. If having a team competition arrange the teams so that they are equal as much as possible (especially in 4th grade on up).

13. When possible in the 5th and 6th grade level the teacher should provide opportunities for the girls to compete against the boys. This works especially well if the game involves running because they would be on an equal basis.