

## **Famous Pairs**

Make cards with famous pairs (peanut butter & jelly, Oreos & milk, toothbrush & toothpaste). Distribute cards randomly and students find their matching partner.

## **UNO Cards**

Decide how you want to group kids and count out corresponding number of cards making sure you have matching cards for each group. Distribute cards randomly and students find others with similar cards.

## **Sticker Picker**

Make cards with matching stickers. So if you want groups of 3, you need 3 matching stickers for each group you want. Distribute cards randomly and students find others who have the same sticker.

## **Pick-Up Sticks**

Decide how many groups you need and then write numbers on Popsicle sticks. Adjust as necessary depending on your class size. Mix up the sticks and hand them out. Students with like numbers make a group.

## **Long-Lost Friends**

For a topic of study, create pairs of cards. One card has a vocabulary word and the matching card has the definition. Mix up the cards and hand them out. Kids find their long-lost friends when vocabulary word and definition match.

## **Alphabet Soup**

Kids use the first letter of their first names for this grouping strategy. Kids break up into groups based on these categories: A-F, G-K, L-Q, R-Z

## **Roll-a-Group**

Have each student roll one number cube. Ask students to remember the number rolled. All kids who rolled a “1” gather together. All 2’s form a group, and so on. Adjust group sizes as necessary.

## **Four Corners**

Ask a question or problem with four parts. Have students select which of the four is their choice and then go to the corner of the classroom where that problem part is displayed. You can also do this by having kids choose a card that corresponds with a topic that you’ve posted in each of the four corners. If you need 5 groups, your 5<sup>th</sup> corner can be in another location in your room.

# Name Game

Write each student's name on an index card. Deal the cards into however many groups you want.

# Play That Funky Music

Start playing a song. Instruct students to walk around the room. When the music stops, students group into however many you want or they find the nearest person to form pairs.

# In the Bag

In a bag, put squares of different colors of paper. Kids reach in and grab one. Students holding the same color are in the same group.

# Shout It Out

Go around the room and have the kids repeat one word of a phrase with the number of words matching how many groups you want. For example, if you want 3 groups, then the chant might be "Synonyms mean same," or "Solid, liquid, gas." Everyone who said "Solid" is in the same group and so on.

# Clock Buddies

Assign appointments on a clock printable for each student. Each student keeps this paper in a folder as a reference. See complete directions [here](#).

# B-Day Buddies

Have students get in groups based on birthday months (or groups of months, i.e. Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, etc.). For older kids, you can have them find group members who were born in the same season.

# Matchy-Match

Put sets of matching objects in a bag. Kids reach in and pull out an object. Then they find their matches and that becomes their group. You can also do this with slips of paper where each word is associated with a topic.

# Collaboration Cards

To have multiple ways to group students all on one card, use the idea shared [here](#). These cards allow you to group students in 3, 4, or 5 groups (or however you need).