

14 Bean Bag Ideas for Easy Kid Involvement!

A simple bean bag has many uses! Here's a few favorite ideas of how to use one to add interest and kid-involvement to your lesson, Sharing Time or family night. To make a bean bag, simply sew 3 sides of a small square of fabric, fill with dried beans, rice or popcorn, then stitch closed.

- 1. TAKE TURNS** for the prayer, reading a scripture, holding a picture, etc. Tape a number on the bottom of the bag. Everyone says a number. The one closest to the number takes first turn.
- 2. REVIEW.** At the end of the lesson, ask each child to think of something related to the lesson. "Today we learned about . . ." For example, if the lesson is about the Word of Wisdom, ask each child to say something against the Word of Wisdom. Repeat and have each child say something that is healthy. Or you can ask specific review questions, throwing the bean bag to each child in turn.
- 3. CHOOSE WORD STRIPS, PICTURES, or QUESTIONS:** Lay out wordstrips, questions, or pictures (in page protectors!) on the floor face down. Children take turns tossing the bag. Whatever it lands on, the child reads the word strip, tells what the picture is about, or answers the question.
- 4. MUFFIN TIN:** Prepare a muffin tin with numbers in the bottom of each cup. Prepare a list with the same number of questions. Have the children stand back and throw the bean bag into one of the cups. The child answers the corresponding question from the list. The same technique can be used for Articles of Faith, in which the child recites corresponding Article of Faith. Younger children can repeat the Articles of Faith with you.
- 5. FINISH THE SENTENCE:** Start a sentence, then toss the beanbag to a child to finish the sentence.
- 6. CHILD TO CHILD:** Ask a question, then while your back is turned, have the children pass the bean bag from one child to another. When you turn around, ask the child holding the bean bag to answer the question. Or, instead of turning your back, you can use the same technique with music playing, then stop the music and the child holding the bean bag answers.
- 7. GETTING ACQUAINTED:** Toss the bean bag to a child. Say something you like about that child. Then that child tosses it to someone else and says something nice about them. Be sure you complement their character, effort, obedience, kindness or contribution to Primary, not just their clothes or physical appearance (every child is handsome or beautiful in their own way!).
- 8. GRATITUDE:** Have each child say something they are thankful for when you toss them the bean bag, in preparation for thanking God for those things in prayer.
- 9. CATEGORIES:** Start the bean bag moving by naming one thing in a category, then pass the bean bag. Categories could be reasons why we're grateful for our families, stories about Jesus, books in the Book of Mormon, latter-day prophets, names of children in our Primary, etc.
- 10. PROGRESSIVE STORY:** Start a story about good choices, then pass the bean bag to a child, who advances the story until you say "And then. . ." The passes the bean bag to another child to continue the story.
- 11. REVERENCE - ONE PERSON SPEAKING AT A TIME:** Tell the children that only the person holding the bean bag may talk. "Right now I am giving the lesson so I am the one holding the bean bag. If you have something to share or know the answer to a question, raise your hand. When I toss you the bean bag you may talk."

MUSIC GAMES with BEAN BAGS:

- 12. HAVE A SEAT:** While you sing, pass the bean bag. When the music stops, the person holding the bean bag sits down. Resume the song until everyone is sitting.
- 13. HOT AND COLD:** While one child is out of the room with a teacher, ask another child to hide the bag. When the child returns, sing louder as the child gets closer to the bag, softer as they get farther, until they find the hidden bag.
- 14. NEXT LINE of the SONG:** While you sing, pass the bean bag. When the pianist stops playing, the person holding the bean bag says the next line. If they don't know it, they pass the bean bag to the next person who does.