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PU Card Game

Background:

- My students catch on more quickly when I make things silly and incorporate them with a game, so I made up *PU Stinkers*.
- PU stands for Pick Up.
- To increase muscle coordination and finger dexterity in my Y5's, I let them use pincher clasp clothespins when picking up a card. This makes things even more fun.
- Sometimes a cartoon skunk is pictured with a clothespin over his nose, so this extends the PU concept as well!
- I have TRACING skills sheets for numbers 0-10 & shapes as well as for upper and lowercase letters. You can run these off and have children TRACE them with markers or highlighters to review these concepts before they play the card game.
- Run off a class set of the other cards so that students can play in pairs or groups of 3, and laminate them.
- Give each child a clothespin.
- Students pass out the cards so that each child is holding 3. The rest of the cards go face down in a neat pile in the middle of the table.
- There are many ways to play. Make up your own rules.
- Here is my basic way to play **Pick Up**.
- Choose a student to start. They identify a card in their hand and show it to their partner(s). They ask if they have the match. If they do, they say yes. The child picks it up with the clothespin and puts the matches next to them. (The child with the most matches when the timer rings is the winner.) If no one does, they say PU and can hold their noses if they want. That child gets to pick one up from the pile on the table. If it doesn't match they put it in their hand. Play goes to the next person. Here's how to match: i.e., an uppercase A will match with a lowercase a. A number 1 will match with the one dot.
- When children are just learning the alphabet they are clueless as to what lowercase letter matches the uppercase letter so provide a laminated "PU Pal Sheet" to help them check to see if they have a match. ☺
- I keep the Tracing Masters in a folder, Pal Sheets, Rubber banded packs of cards and clothespins all in a plastic tub. Children can check this tub out during Tummy Tubby Activity Time. Sometimes we'll play it as a whole group for about 7-10 minutes. The children LOVE playing PU. I love that it's quick and easy and reinforces, shapes, numbers, and letters, as well as finger control, and tracing/writing skills!