

Kagan Strategy: Mix-N-Match*

Steps for the Strategy

1. Each student is given a card with a problem or some kind of information on it. (each card has a match)
2. Students mix around the room carrying their cards.
3. Teacher calls out Pair and students find a partner.
4. Students letter off as A or B.
5. Partner A quizzes Partner B about Partner A's card. Partners praise or coach as needed.
6. Partners A and B switch roles.
7. Partners swap cards.
8. Partners split and repeat steps 2-7 several times.
9. Last time while students are mixing, call out "Freeze".
10. Students freeze, hide their cards and think of their match.
11. Students move to the center of the room looking for their match.
12. Once the partner is found, they move away from the center.

Alternative Use of the Strategy

1. Each card has a partner; either a matching card or one, which relates in some way to another card. E.g. One card has a picture while another has the word which describes it or one card has a problem and the other one has the answer.
2. Students mix around the room looking for the match to their card.
3. When they find their match, they move to outer perimeter of the room.
4. Students double check their matches and confer with a nearby pair to confirm that they match.
5. Teacher can collect the cards, redistribute them and repeat steps 1-4.

Management Tips

1. Short answer questions or simple problems work best.
2. Divide each match into an A and a B stack using a different color of card for each stack—makes finding a partner easier.
3. Have students raise a hand as they are looking for a partner. Lower the hand when they have found a match.
4. Students go to the center of the room to find a match. Students move to the perimeter of the room when a match has been found.
5. Students can carry slates or clipboards when scratch work is necessary.
6. Pass out matched pairs to partners initially. This ensures that students know they are sitting next to a match before mixing.

Social Skills

1. Coaching
2. Greeting someone
3. Proper departing comments
4. Giving and accepting praise
5. Appropriate noise level

6. Giving and accepting constructive criticism

*Based on various materials available from Kagan Publishing.