

WET BREAK · GRADES 1–5

30 Wet Break Quick Games

Print, laminate, keep on the desk

How to use this card

Print, fold, laminate. Keep on your desk for the moment the rain starts and lunch supervisors say 'wet break'. Pick a game from the right age group. Each game takes 5–15 minutes. Strung together they cover a whole lunchtime.

Quiet games (any age)

Heads down, thumbs up Classic. 5 children at the front. Rest put heads down, thumbs up. The 5 each push down a thumb. Children try to guess who got them.	Whisper challenge Whisper a word/phrase to first in line. Pass it down. Last child says it aloud. Compare to original.
Silent sorting Children sort themselves silently — by birthday month, by height, by alphabetical first name.	20 questions One child thinks of an object. Class asks 20 yes/no questions to guess. Adult can keep a tally.
I went to the shop Each child adds an item alphabetically: 'I went to the shop and bought an APPLE, a BANANA, a CARROT...'	Categories Pick a category (animals, foods, sports). Go round circle. Each child names one. No repeats. Out if you pause.

Active games (where there's space)

Simon says Eternal classic. Stand up, sit down, touch your nose — only if 'Simon says'.	Dead lions Children lie still on the floor, eyes closed. The most still wins. Magical for calming chaos.
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Chair islands Like musical chairs, but no music — just clap rhythms. Pause clapping; children sit on the nearest chair.	Statues Children dance/move while music plays. Music stops, freeze. Anyone moving is out.
Ninja Stand in a circle. One move at a time, try to slap another player's hand. They dodge. Last one in wins.	Animal charades Whisper an animal to a child. They act it out silently. Class guesses.

Brain games (great for KS2)

Word association First child says a word. Next child says a related word. 'Apple — red — sunset — beach...' Don't pause.	Last letter, first letter Pick a category (countries, foods). Each child names one starting with the last letter of the previous. 'France → Egypt → Turkey...'
Categories race Pick a letter and a category. Children write as many words as they can in 2 minutes. Most wins.	Two truths and a lie Each child says three things about themselves — two true, one made up. Class guesses the lie.
Don't say it Pick five 'banned' words. Have a 30-second conversation with a partner without saying any of them.	Story chain First child says a sentence to start a story. Next adds a sentence. Build the story round the room.

Pen-and-paper games

Hangman Always works. Use class topics for words: festivals, science vocabulary, book titles.	Dots and boxes Grid of dots. Take turns drawing one line between two dots. Whoever closes a box claims it. Most boxes wins.
Consequences Folding-paper game. Each child writes a name, folds, passes. Then 'met another name', folds, passes. Then 'where', 'they said'. Read the story aloud.	MASH Mansion, Apartment, Shack, House. Children list crazy options for partner / job / pet / car. Random number eliminates options. Their future is read.



Pictionary doodles

Whisper a word to one child. They draw it. Class guesses. No words allowed in the drawing.

Three-letter words

How many 3-letter words can you make from the word INDEPENDENCE? Or any topic word.

Group games**Guess who?**

One child leaves the room. Class picks a child. Returner asks yes/no questions to identify them.

Wink murder

Pick a 'detective' to leave. Class picks a 'murderer'. Detective returns. Murderer winks at people, who 'die'. Detective has 3 guesses.

Banana banana

Stand in a circle. Pass clap round. Whoever says 'banana banana' twice in a row is out. Last in wins.

Charades

Categories: book, film, song, TV, action. No talking. 30 seconds per attempt.

What's missing?

Place 10 objects on a tray. Class looks for 30 seconds. Cover and remove one. Class guesses what's missing.

Stand up, sit down

Read out statements. 'Stand up if you have a pet.' / 'Sit down if you've been swimming this year.' Mixes class up nicely.

