

Japan - Chop Pick-up Sticks

Objective: Teach students about a different culture.
Improve small muscle coordination and concentration.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Materials:

- Several pairs of wooden chopsticks
- 20-25 small items (blocks, string, toys, buttons, etc.)
- 3-4 shoe boxes or other small containers

Procedure:

This game can be used as a center in which the students work independently or in small groups of 2-3.

1. Place the items randomly on the table.
2. Give each student a pair of chopsticks and a box/container.
3. Tell the students to pick up and place as many items as they can into a container. Students should not move or turn over the container and they should not touch the items with their hands.
4. Allow the students several (10-15) minutes to try to figure out how to use the chopsticks to pick up the different items and place them in the container.
5. The students may try to use the chopsticks in many different ways (2 hands, one hand, as a lever, etc.)
6. Have each student count the number of items they successfully put in their container. Were there any items that were not picked up by any student? If so, discuss possible reasons why.
7. After the designated time, or after all students have tried this exercise, demonstrate the correct way of using chopsticks with one hand.
8. Have the children try to eat noodles or rice with the chopsticks.