

Math Beanbag Toss

Grades K-5

BENEFIT

Throwing skills,
catching skills,
math skills

LOCATION

Grass, blacktop

EQUIPMENT

One beanbag
for every two
students

Tip

Students should get no farther than 10 steps apart, so the answers to all math problems should be 10 or less.

Tip

Encourage your students to toss the beanbag underhand.

Tip

Remind them to hold the beanbag in their throwing hand and to step toward the target with the opposite foot while tossing the beanbag.

1 Assign each student a partner. Give each pair a beanbag. Have the partners spread out loosely on the grass or blacktop. The partner holding the beanbag is the starting pitcher; the other partner is the starting catcher.

2 Give a grade-appropriate math problem to your class; for example, say “Three plus three.” Call on students who raise a hand to answer the math problem. Acknowledge the correct answer—for example, by saying, “That’s right, six!” The starting catcher in each pair now takes that number of steps backward. In this example, the starting catcher takes six steps backward from her partner.

3 Once the starting catchers are in place, the partners begin tossing the beanbag back and forth. After about 45 seconds, call out “Reset.” The students return to their original positions; every round the partners should alternate who starts off holding the beanbag and who steps backward.



Students pair up to toss a beanbag (A). The teacher poses a math problem; the correct answer tells the starting catcher in each pair how many steps to back up (B). The students toss the beanbag back and forth across the specified distance (C).