

Social Emotional Tools

Pairing Cards

Level: Elementary

Age: Children (Primary)

Time needed: 5 minutes

Lesson aim: To provide previous pair discussion spaces to feel safe and confident for further participation.

Materials: Sets of cards

Instructions:

- 1 Print and cut as many cards as you need of the chosen set. You can use all sets at once.
- 2 Ensure you have two copies of the same item.
- 3 The empty set can be used for specific vocabulary according to your lesson aims. You can decorate it with drawings, stickers, words, or even ask students to draw and decorate their own sets.

How to use it?

Have students work in pairs to encourage them, including less confident ones, to join in class activities. Students can sometimes feel afraid or embarrassed to speak in front of the whole class. They might feel safer in pairs.

Try this strategy before talking about the unit openers, scenes, or any other activity that might require sharing ideas as a class. Students will have a chance to discuss their ideas in smaller groups. Encourage creativity and engagement by regularly mixing up students so they're not always working with the same partner.

- Have a set of cards prepared in advance.
- Hand out the cards to everyone.
- Ask students to find the person with the matching card and work with that classmate.

This pairing routine can be helpful to set up pairs or small teams for other activities.