

20 Ways to Make Learning  
**FUN & ENGAGING**



# Thank you!

## How to Use This Download

Thank you for signing up for the HoJo's Teaching Adventures newsletter! I hope you enjoy this printable copy of 20 ways to make learning fun and engaging!

Pages 3-5 are detailed examples of what you can do. I would NOT recommend printing these pages off due to the links within them.

Page 6 is a one-page, easy to print copy to reference regularly. Print this and put it on the back of your desk, cabinet, or inside a door to reference regularly.

Again, thank you for signing up for my newsletter! I hope you'll stay subscribed to the list for more valuable updates from me in the future. However, if at any time you're unhappy with the information being delivered to your inbox – simply scroll to the bottom of the e-mail and hit “unsubscribe”.

I **LOVE** hearing from you! Feel free to hit reply on any newsletter from me to let me know your thoughts or any questions you may have.

Thanks for being here!

~HoJo~

**1. Get Them Moving** - No one likes to sit still all day long. (Think about that last, boring in-service!) You want to get moving, and so do your students! Whether you let them use task cards to get some movement while doing academics or utilize [Brain Breaks](#) to give them two minutes of down time, make sure to offer plenty of opportunities for movement as one of the ways to make learning fun and engaging.

**2. Break Up the Lesson** - You can't have students listen to you lecture and expect them to stay engaged for an entire hour! Break up your lesson. Give an introduction, do an activity, talk a little, go back to the activity, and then finish up with a discussion at the end. Your break up wouldn't have to look exactly like that, but breaking up the lesson will definitely help!

**3. Go on a Field Trip** - Many schools have cut field trips from their budgets. However, there are a plethora of options available online. See if they tie into what you're already learning and give a [virtual field trip](#) a try!

**4. Throw a Party** - This is something you're obviously not going to do every day, but why not aim for once a month? If you just finished that rock unit, have a rock party! You could [make rock candy](#) or [create metamorphic and sedimentary rocks](#). With Pinterest at our fingertips, it's easier than ever to find a way to "party" through the school year!

**5. Show a Video** - In today's world, our students are bombarded with video stimuli from the moment they wake up until the moment they go to sleep. As teachers, we have to compete! So show that short video clip on YouTube or TeacherTube. Or create something to share yourself. (You can learn how to use YouTube videos safely for school by visiting [this site](#).)

**6. Incorporate Art** - In a world filled with [craftivities](#), there's a way to turn many lessons into an art lesson. Science and social studies often take a backseat, so why not incorporate an art or craft project into them to make the learning more fun and meaningful for your students?

**7. Give Choice** - Sometimes all students want is a little choice. Think about it...as an adult do you like always being *told* what to do? Or would you rather have some say in the matter? I know I like being given choices. And when I've allowed my students choice, their buy in and engagement has been much higher in my classroom.

**8. Play Games** - A quick search on Teachers Pay Teachers shows over 300,000 downloads for "[games](#)" and over 30,000 of them are [free](#). While it may not be possible to turn every lesson into a game, you're likely to get more engagement when you use games in the classroom more frequently. [Magic Square Puzzles](#) are a great game to cover academics while also keeping students engaged.

**9. Take Learning Outside** - If a lesson can be done outdoors, move it outside! Sometimes even simply being outside can make the lesson more fun and engaging. Bonus points if there is a way to get creative and be outside!

**10. Let Them Be Creative** - Let your class know that you're open to assignments being changed or modified if they approve it with you first. Oftentimes our students have better ideas than we do, so let them run those ideas past you. They may just put a creative twist on a lesson that you hadn't thought of. For the student, this "twist" will make the lesson more meaningful and fun - therefore making them more engaged!

**11. Hook 'Em** - Find ways to get students excited about the topic at hand. Maybe you'll dress up or wear a silly hat. Perhaps you'll tell a story that leaves them on the edge of their seat. Regardless, get them hooked on the topic and you'll have them engaged through more (if not all!) of the lesson.

**12. Let Them Talk** - Depending on the age of your students, the "fun" and "engagement" might come by promising them five minutes of free talk at the end of the lesson if they work hard and focus.

**13. Use Music** - Younger elementary teachers can use music that teaches everything from colors to numbers to letter, but even upper elementary teachers can use music! Use it to teach multiplication facts, the prepositions, or the states and capitals. (Fun Fact - Pierre, South Dakota is pronounced like peer. 😊)

**14. Surprise Them!** - Find a way to surprise your students. Maybe you'll give them each a piece of candy randomly just for being there. Or yell, "pop quiz" and ask them all to get out a piece of paper and a pencil. Instead of giving the traditional quiz, make it fun! Ask them to tell you something funny that has happened to them, or ask what *they* want to learn about. While you may not be able to do this last one very often, it's sure to pique their interest once in awhile!

**15. Let Them Teach** - Let your students play teacher for the lesson, or even part of it. They'll love being in charge. You can go sit in their desk and be a student.

**16. Make It About Them** - Try to make the lessons custom built around your students. If they're super into Taylor Swift, do some informational text reading about her. If there's a song they can't get enough of (What Does the Fox Say, anyone?), use it to your advantage! Your students are more likely to be engaged and buy into the lesson if you do things that they actually care about.

**17. Let Them Read What They Want** - How often as teachers do we tell students they have to read books on their level? I know I've been guilty of this. But now think of it for a minute... As an adult with a college degree, do you only pick up college level reading material? Or do you also enjoy a cheesy novel or young adult story from time to time? Again, give your students choice. Don't force them to read only what you want. Let them choose what to read when possible.

**18. Host a Competition** - Many times it's fun to go head to head with your peers for a little fun. Whether you divide the class into teams for the next review or plan a full-out bracket for an activity - give it a go! (Just make sure to keep it fun and light-hearted so no one walks away feeling bad.)

**19. Incorporate Technology** - Lessons involve technology often leave students even more engaged than those without. So use it to your advantage! (Just please make the lesson worthwhile and not another "filler" activity.)

**20. Work Together** - Let's face it, sometimes we just like working with our best friend! If there is a time where working with a partner or small group will work - let them! This is going to make for happier, more engaged students. That's the goal - right?

# 20 Ways to Make Learning

# FUN & ENGAGING

1. Get Them Moving
2. Break Up the Lesson
3. Go on a Field Trip
4. Throw a Party
5. Show a Video
6. Incorporate Art
7. Give Choice
8. Play Games
9. Take Learning Outside
10. Let Them Be Creative
11. Hook 'Em
12. Let Them Talk
13. Use Music
14. Surprise Them!
15. Let Them Teach
16. Make It About Them
17. Let Them Read What They Want
18. Host a Competition
19. Incorporate Technology
20. Work Together

# Credits

Some fonts by [Hello Literacy](#)

Cover photo by [Deposit Photos](#)

## Please Follow Me! 😊

I'd love for you to follow me in the following ways:

- [Teachers Pay Teachers](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Pinterest](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Google+](#)