

INTERACTIVE & INQUIRY STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE GRADE 5 LEARNERS

by:

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For Grade 5 students, learning sticks best when they're active—physically, mentally, and socially. Interactive and inquiry-based methods help young learners stay engaged and think deeply, building strong foundations for future learning.

Interactive strategies such as game-based learning and manipulatives (blocks, counters, shapes) let students engage physically with math concepts. When kids play a multiplication board game or explore fractions with fraction tiles, they internalize ideas better than through worksheets alone.

How It Helps

Hands-on manipulatives connect abstract numbers to tangible objects.

Game-based methods increase motivation and friendly competition.

Research in Lambayong Municipality shows that interactive math teaching boosts engagement and academic scores.

Inquiry guides pupils to ask questions, to research, and to explore ideas by themselves. The “5E model” is a popular format for this approach. This includes Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. This fosters scientific thinking and metacognitive reflection.

What It Looks Like in Grade 5

Engage: Ask a wonder question, like “What makes objects sink or float?”

Explore: Let students test with everyday items.

Explain: Guide discussion about why some things floats.

Elaborate: Challenge students with new materials or add measurements.

Evaluate: Have students share results verbally or via posters.

Structured group or peer learning (e.g. “Think-Pair-Share”) empowers students to explain and critique each other’s ideas. In peer teaching, students alternate roles explaining key concepts like multiplication or grammar rules. This boosts comprehension and responsibility.

Movement-Based Learning including short movement activities, such as counting steps or acting out story characters, enhances attention and memory. A few minutes to stretch or dance during lessons can refresh students before returning to reading or math.

A Grade 5 classroom might combine:

An inquiry-based science activity using the 5E model.

Manipulatives and games in math.

Peer teaching after each lesson.

Mini movement breaks to stay focused.

Interactive, inquiry, peer, and movement-based methods work together to make learning engaging and effective for Grade 5 students. By using hands-on materials, asking open questions, encouraging collaboration, and integrating movement, teachers create richer and more meaningful classrooms.

References:

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