

Toy Share Tip Sheet



What is the Toy Share Activity?

Toy Share is an instructional strategy in which students are given various toys and asked to make a creative association between the toy and a concept from the content being studied.

How does Toy Share help students learn?

My Very Energetic Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas - So many times students use various mnemonic devices to remember key information.

Toy Share takes these devices one step further. By asking students to make associations which are not obvious, they must first understand the concept being studied, then analyze the concept from multiple perspectives to create a new connection which did not previously exist; thereby creating a personalized hook for the information.

Creating Toy Share!

- Begin accumulating various small toys; this is the chance to find toys which make noise, light up, move or otherwise considered "annoying toys." Toys can be found in fast food meals, garage sales or thrift stores.
- A great toy "bucket" would have well over 20 different toys.

Using Toy Share in the classroom

- Have each student, pair or group of students jot down 4 - 5 facts or ideas about the topic or content being studied.
- Each student, pair or group selects a toy from the toy bucket. Toys can also be randomly placed on tables.
- Students are now given the challenge to make an association between the toy and the facts they recorded earlier. An example could be: "A spinning top is like the revolutionary war because a top is/has _____ and the war is/has _____. Not all students need this hint or structural sentence."
- Once students have developed their association sentence, they can be shared with the larger group.
- To help cement the associations, after each group has shared, hold up the various toys and have students recall how each was associated with the topic at hand.
- These associations can be refreshed as passes out the door, warm-ups, or quick group discussions.
- These toys can be placed around the classroom during assessments to stimulate a quick recall of the associations.

