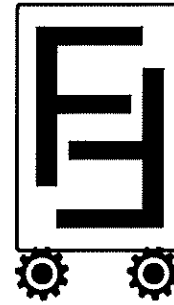


FIX FORWARD LESSON PLAN



Name: Fix It Now Party!

Grade(s): 1-4

Lesson Focus and Goals:

The goal of a Fix It Now Party is to make several quick fixes concurrently with a group of children. Fix It Now Party is a way to help children feel immediate success and satisfaction of fixing everyday items from their classroom.

Materials Needed:

- Fix It Cart
- Broken classroom items
- Many adults (ideally 1 adult per 3-4 children)
- *Doll Hospital* by K. George

Learning Objectives:

Children will identify the problem with a broken item and brainstorm ways to fix it. They will retrieve possible tools and supplies from the Fix It Cart and work to fix their broken object.

Structure / Activity:

Teacher/Leader Prep: Over weeks and months, set aside broken classroom items in a "To Fix" box. Another option: make announcement to the school: we are collecting broken items! Here are some items that may work well for a Fix It Now Party: staplers, smudged and dirty paper-sized white boards, headphones with a detached earpad, wobbly desks, games with broken or missing pieces, a tangle of computer cords, broken easels, stuffed animals with a hole, a wall clock, a piece of wood with a rough and dangerous edge. See suggested fixes/materials page 2.

Fix It Now Party works best when children can work in small, adult-supervised groups to fix many items concurrently. Why? If group size is small, children will be able to engage more directly with the fix. If many items are being fixed at the same time, children can gravitate toward specific fixes (some children love hammering nails, other children don't like the loud sound of the hammer; some children adore stuffies, other children want to get their hands on a saw and some sandpaper). If a fix ends up being too complicated or needs time to dry, children can bounce to another group and still have the satisfaction of getting to fix something. If many adults are present, they can brainstorm with one another and support one another in the fixes.

Fix It Now Party Day: Set up fix-it stations. Assign an adult to each station. Launch the party by reading *Doll Hospital* by K. George. Put tools in a central location for easy access. Give a quick intro speech, and get going!

Staplers: staplers often stop working when they are jammed with staples. Jammed staples can be removed with needle-nose pliers (and sometimes a bent paper clip). Jammed staplers are an excellent option for a Fix It Now Party because staplers are common in a school setting and don't require a supervising adult to have special fix-it knowledge other than being able to teach basic plier safety and patience. Pro-tip: gather several jammed staplers so if one stapler is broken beyond repair children can still fix at least one stapler.

Smudged and dirty paper-sized white boards: many classroom teachers use individual white boards for literacy and math work. Over time, these boards become smudged or sometimes they are covered with old work that no longer easily erases. Whiteboards can be cleaned with a magic eraser or good old fashioned patience and hard scrubbing. Some children find immense satisfaction in this kind of cleaning/fixing project, and teachers love when their white board sparkle!

Headphones with detached earpad: these days, students often use iPads or Chromebooks starting in early elementary school. Students use headphones with these devices and cheaper headphone pads tend to fall off over time. Save these broken headphones and pads! During a Fix It Now Party, children can experiment with glues and seek to figure out: What kind of glue works best to attach a headphone pad? (Glues to have on hand: Elmers, super glue, glue gun).

Wobbly desks: where you have desks, you will have wobbly desks! Desks aren't super portable but they are abundant in a school setting, and fixable! Identify wobbly desks beforehand and make sure you have the correct type of screwdriver available on party day. With the children, troubleshoot ways to fix the desk. Sometimes the easiest fix is a handmade shim secured under a leg.

Games with broken/missing pieces: can you glue a broken piece? Fix a poorly spinning spinner? Fashion your own missing chess piece out of clay or wood? Brainstorm before children arrive to help and make sure you have some materials on hand to help with the fix. With the children, brainstorm together and see what they come up with!

Tangled computer cords: can children help you unknot a nest of cords? Can you use zip ties to organize cords? With some advance planning, this fix may solve some legitimate issues in the classroom.

Broken easels: elementary classrooms often have easels. Cheaper easels tend to loosen and break over time. A screwdriver and wood glue/extra wood/clamps often can do the job.

Objects continued:

Stuffed animals with a hole: This is a classic fix as stuffed animals often end up with holes. A needle, thread, and stuffing can often fix this problem. Gather damaged stuffed animals from around the school or encourage children to bring them in from home (the more the merrier if you are looking to bulk up number of items to fix). Most adults can help teach stuffed animal repair without advanced sewing skills.

Wall Clock: most “broken” wall clocks need new batteries. Replacing batteries is an easy fix!

Wood with rough/dangerous edge: sandpaper is a cheap, sensory, and instantly gratifying way for children to work with wood without using sharp saws or power tools. Ask the children: do we have any rough spots on the playground? Under your desk? Schools are often designed to be safe, but with some advance looking you can probably find something that needs sanding.





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Studying
the tools

The
START
of the
CART...



Fix
It
NOW
Party!

