



Extra Lesson Ideas for PECS in Your Curriculum Workshop

Additional Ideas for Literacy Lessons:

- Using a book like 'Going on a Bear Hunt' to ask commenting questions such as 'what can you see?', 'What can you feel?', 'Where are they going?'
- Students requesting items relating to the story.
- Asking requesting questions such as, 'Which book do you want to look at?'
- Students comment on what they liked or disliked about the story including specific characters.
- Using a book to inspire students' own drawings of characters; student would also need to request items required to complete drawings.
- Student arranges cut up words, sentences or pictures into the correct order, then answer questions or comment on the end result.
- Class/individual to make their own version of a book; then comment on similarities and differences, respond to questions or request preferred version.
- Two PECS users – first user would ask a question and the second user would respond using the PECS protocol.
- Student act out familiar stories and other students would then request items e.g. 'Hungry Caterpillar' / 'Handra's Surprise' – items of food either eaten or on top of Handra's hat, respectfully.
- Commenting on emotions in stories.
- Commenting on what characters are doing in stories using pronouns and verbs.
- Letter puzzle – requesting individual letters or to be able to spell words, perhaps use familiar vocabulary or subject specific.
- Alphabet letters, requesting letters to complete words or puzzles, commenting on what others need or have.
- Adult describing a character from a well know book and the student has to guess what character it is.

Additional Ideas for Numeracy Lessons:

- Use reinforcers to teach addition, subtraction etc, depending on students ability.
- Requesting different quantities of reinforcers.
- Have a class or school shop where students can request and then buy reinforcing items using real money, either exact or requiring change.
- Request different shaped preferred items.
- Use a favourite train character, e.g. Thomas the Tank to request, respond or comment on the time taken to complete part or full journey.
- Use any type of preferred food. One idea would be pizza, which is always a helpful way to teach fractions, size or more / less.
- Draw around preferred items, self or peers and measure, request items needed, respond to questions asked or comment on results.
- Numbers and calculations on activity board; the student would then need to answer with the sum, e.g. $2+2+4=?$ teacher records answers.



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- Student asks peers math sums e.g. what is $2+2=$?
- Playing 'What's the Time, Mr. Wolf' or another similar game.
- Hiding items in different size/shape/colour boxes to request.
- Student to request individual numbers or to create patterns.

Additional Ideas for Science Lessons:

- Sorting and grouping different preferred items according to categories and properties, placing in hoops, either separate or overlapping to explore similarities and differences, as with Venn diagrams.
- Students to request items needed, label items, respond to questions and comment on results in the following topic areas:
 - **Plants**
 - Grow a plant, request items needed for project, predict what might happen, record data and evaluate success.
 - Enhance the functionality of above by growing cress; once cress starts to grow, cut and use in making sandwiches.
 - **Animals**
 - Use recordings, pictures, noises or toys to stimulate request, response or comment.
 - **Materials**
 - Use feely bag to promote responsive and expressive communication by commenting on and answering questions about the different properties of various materials.
 - **The Seasons**
 - Dress 'Barney Bear' in appropriate clothes for the days weather, before taking him outside on a learning Journey.
 - **Forces & magnets**
 - Push/pull preferred items over different materials.
 - Introduce more/less to balance scales or to comment.
 - Using magnets to predict attract or repel different preferred items and to comment on whether magnetic or not.
 - Weighing preferred items and commenting.
 - **Light**
 - Make finger/ hand puppets and project onto screen.
 - Place pictures inside a dark den or dimly lit area, student then has a torch or flash light to find pictures and comment.
 - **Sound**
 - Use different recorded sounds to elicit communication.
 - **Electricity**
 - Construct basic circuits.
 - Problem solve more complex circuits



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Additional Ideas for Teaching Art / Design & Technology:

- All Students to request any/all items needed, respond to questions and comment on stimulus being shown.
- Ideal for any attribute lesson.
- Request texture e.g. I want *shiny* paper or I want *soft* paint brush.
- Commenting lessons if looking at art – requesting their favourite, or commenting on what they can see or feel in certain artwork.

Additional Ideas for Teaching Food Technology:

- Use moulds /cutters of preferred items to make biscuits, cakes or sandwiches.
- Make food collages of preferred items using dry pasta etc.
- ‘What can you smell?’ label and comment on their like/dislike of the smell.
- Sorting food into food groups; request items to then sort into groups/categories.
- Making a sandwich – Phase IIIA, e.g. which would you use, chocolate spread or peas.
- Teaching temperature e.g. ice cream is cold or baked bread is hot.

Additional Ideas for Teaching Sports:

- Request different types of movement with different people, peers and adults, comment on performed movements.
- Request different equipment for preferred sport, using a variety of relevant and mastered attributes, e.g. ‘big ball’, ‘big red ball’, etc.
- Request other students to be part of their team in a game.
- Student to hold stop and go cards for peers to respond to either individually or as a group, within the game.
- ‘Simon Says’ game – may need to be student’s actual name e.g. Jamie says jump.
- Commenting on sport/sport equipment.
- Requesting ‘Can I have ball back’ – vital skill in the community!
- Teaching ‘my turn’ or ‘can I play?’

Additional Ideas for Teaching History:

- Start with the immediate past and then develop over longer periods of time.
- Take photos of themselves and peers, take photos of different staff and put into age order. Compare with pictures of other people from all age groups.
- Review significant events in curriculum, comment on events described, and role play.
- Request items of clothing to dress up like a significant historical figure.
- Roman time period – make a mosaic, request tiles by shape/size/colour.
- Phase IIIA lesson – Using 2 toilet roll holders and sticking faces of Henry VIII and Mr. Tumble.



Extra Lesson Ideas for *PECS in Your Curriculum* Workshop

Additional Ideas for Teaching Geography:

- Use 'Barney Bear', class or individual preferred character to go on a journey traveling to different places, requesting items and commenting on different aspects of different cultures.
- Identify key characteristics or items of relevant place, i.e. sort relevant and non-relevant artefacts.
- Play 'Where's Wally' with class mascot, with a reinforcer or a picture of a student on a map.
- Dressing up in traditional dress or eating traditional food from a certain area.
- School trip – take a student to the zoo and give them symbols of the animals, they can then request where to go and then comment on what they saw and when.

*For more information about setting up a classroom attend Pyramid Educational Consultants' full day talk, PECS in Your Curriculum, and/or read Chapter 12 of *The Pyramid Approach to Education, 2nd Edition* titled "A Day in the Life: Practical Application of the Pyramid Approach to Education".*

Contact us at pyramiduk@pecs.com or +44 (0) 1273 609555 for more information.