

# introduction



Games have proven to have great educational value. This is especially significant for language learning. W.R. Lee, language specialist and author, believes that games should be treated as central, and not peripheral to the foreign language-teaching program. The Bridges Program supports the use of games for a variety of reasons.

Games are highly motivating, have pedagogical value and are fun for learners. They enhance student interaction and improve student engagement as they rely on pro-social behavior. Lev Vygotsky, *Social Development Theory*, asserts that social learning precedes development; as every function in the child's cultural development appears twice, first, on the social level, and later, on the individual level; first, between people (inter-psychological) and then inside the child (intra-psychological (Vygotsky, 1978).

Language learning through games provides a low-anxiety, less threatening way for students to develop and mediate social environments. Students acquire new language in the Zone of Proximal Development, with the support of the More Knowledgeable Other. Further, games provide feedback regarding student progress and proficiency levels to both the instructor and learner.

The series of games and activities provided within the Play Stations Activities, games 1-25, are designed to support a positive language-learning atmosphere. We encourage instructors to reuse and recycle game ideas in new and creative ways to promote fluency.

Station	Game Topic
1.....	Colors
2.....	Classroom Objects
3,4.....	Shapes
5.....	Colors
6.....	Colors
7.....	Classroom Objects
8.....	Shapes
9.....	Numbers and Counting
10.....	Numbers
11.....	Classroom and Counting
12.....	Numbers
13.....	Shapes
14.....	Counting and Shapes
15.....	Spatial Language, Prepositions
16.....	Colors, Shapes and Numbers
17.....	Body Parts
18.....	Body Parts
19.....	Numbers and Counting
20.....	Body Parts
21.....	Shapes and Counting
22.....	Classroom Objects
23.....	Numbers and Counting
24.....	Numbers and Quantity
25.....	Numbers and Counting

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