

Kicking For Critters

A small group activity designed to practice kicking at a hoop in order to collect a critter.



Standard Aligned:

- **PREK-2 1.2.10:** Demonstrates kicking a ball in a variety of non-dynamic practice tasks.
- **3-5 1.5.18:** Demonstrates kicking a ball using the instep in a variety of practice tasks.

Equipment:

- 1 Poly spot per group
- 1 Soccer ball per group
- 1 Bucket per group
- All the hula hoops you have
- All the critters you have (beanie babies, stuffed animals, rubber critters, etc...)

Game Set Up: Spread out all the hoops on the opposite side of the playing area and place critters (or any small item to collect) in each hoop. Divide students into groups (depending on class size/space/equipment). Groups are lined up single file behind a poly spot.



Directions:

1. On the signal, the first student in each group will kick the ball towards the hoops.
2. If the ball comes to rest inside a hula hoop, the student gets to select one item from the hoop.
3. The student will give the ball to the next player in the line and put the item into their group's bucket.
4. If the ball is not inside a hoop when it comes to rest, students simply retrieve the ball and give it to the next person in line.
5. Groups try to collect as many items as they can in the given time.
6. Bonus: If all the animals are gone from the hoop and a ball comes to rest inside it, students can collect the hoop and place it around their bucket.

Best Practices:

- Use any small items you may have in lieu of "critters" (hockey pucks, deck rings, fleece balls, bean bags, etc...)
- If you don't have a lot of items, you can just use hula hoops as the collection item.
- For more success and collection, set up the hoop next to a wall so shots can rebound back into a hoop.
- Remind students to watch out for rolling balls from other teams and try not to interfere with them.