



AIM 4 PIE

Academics In Motion for Physical Intensity Everyday

By Carol Cranford

PIE! I LOVE PIE!! I use the concept of PIE as a yearly rationale for PE class. PIE answers the question...How do we keep our hearts healthy? My students love to tell others: To get a Healthy Heart you need a little PIE!

.....PHYSICAL.....INTENSITY.....EVERYDAY.....!

INTEGRATING LITERACY IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS

The game, AIM 4 PIE, is a dynamic way to include academics in PE class without giving up physical intensity. AIM 4 PIE strikes the desired balance between academic and physical elements with the simplicity of its design. What better game pieces than the 26 unique symbols, the foundation for our entire written and spoken communication, **rolling on a ball?** **228** individually lettered balls are used by students to perform academic tasks combined with movement and sports skills. AIM 4 PIE is a game kit with enough equipment to completely engage up to 100 students with no waiting! Within a 30 minute physical education class four major aspects of development are addressed: physical, academic, collaborative and personal.

Physical daily fitness needs

Students experience high energy physical intensity through running, skipping, galloping, and leaping....in search of an assigned letter ball. Students also have opportunity to improve in the areas of gross/fine motor skills, eye hand coordination, spatial awareness and agility/balance. Oppositional skills of throwing to target and striking skills are practiced when students return the letter balls to the mixer goal as part of the game. For example the physical objective for the day could be on using the proper mechanics of shooting a basketball each time the student returns a ball to the mix.

Academic

AIM 4 PIE may be enjoyed by the youngest non-reading students by using verbal task commands while beginning readers and older established readers can be challenged by simply changing the complexity of the word/task cards. The academic tasks can range from letter recognition to high frequency sight words, color words, number words to current spelling and

vocabulary list (classroom teachers gladly share). AIM 4 PIE is also an excellent way for physical educators to introduce and reinforce health related terms and concepts.

The variety and possibilities of academic tasks are truly limitless. Task cards can contain a single word or the word to be spelled can be paired with a definition or a picture diagram (muscle and bone identification).

Collaborative Learning

Students work in teams and **every team member has a role to play**. Each team has a captain, a point guard and several letter “ninjas”. Teams compete for points by spelling words quickly and **must work together**. The elements of cooperation and competition are extremely effective in keeping students motivated and on task. AIM 4 PIE is played with up to 12 teams of 4-8 students per team. Teams are spelling different words simultaneously and the game is extremely fast paced and exciting. The points are pie piece shaped cards and the race is on to see how many whole pies a team can build (concept of fractions by just keeping score in a game).

Personal

AIM 4 PIE accommodates most individual learning styles (brain based learning is the latest term) by a unique blending of intense physical movement, academic tasks and teamwork.

The simple concept of having each letter independently and randomly moving, with the students being the force that organizes the letters to spell words, is the essence of **kinesthetic** learning. The students must physically build the words. AIM4PIE creates a dynamic image of someone shaking a snow globe. **Spatial** learners, preferring pictures and images, are very comfortable learning this way. **Logical** thinkers use logic and reasoning to work the system of the game. They use prediction and probability to help them find the assigned letters. Teamwork and communication are vital elements in AIM 4 PIE which appeals to **social learners**.

In a totally different way of describing the personal benefits of AIM 4 PIE, AIM here could mean Attitudes In Motion. A huge responsibility of physical educators is to help students shape and build positive attitudes toward daily physical intensity and to develop lifelong desires and knowledge to maintain daily healthy habits. We want our students to understand that daily physical intensity is just as important to quality living as eating good food, getting enough rest and physical shelter. Task cards relaying this message and these concepts can be an extremely powerful and effective tool for any physical educator.

To learn more about AIM 4 PIE please visit <http://www.aim4pie.com>.