

### 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.



## Extra Lesson Ideas for *PECS in Your Curriculum Workshop*

- 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

### 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' two day workshop, the Pyramid Approach to Education, and/or read Chapter 12 of *The Pyramid Approach to Education, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* titled "A Day in the Life: Practical Application of the Pyramid Approach to Education". Visit [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com) or contact Pyramid at [admin@pecsaustralia.com](mailto:admin@pecsaustralia.com) or +61 3 9097 1655 for more information.

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