

REPURPOSE THOSE GREETING CARDS!

By Joyce Hemphill

Used greeting cards are perfect for classroom games and activities. The front covers can be used for storytelling. Select three cards, and create a story that incorporates elements from those cards. Or pick two cards, carefully study the designs, and identify the ways in which they are alike. Use a spinner that points to blends and clusters, spin, and then find an object on the card front that begins with that blend or cluster. Greeting cards are also perfect for identifying geometric shapes, lines, angles, and positive-negative space.

Simple games and playful learning activities provide opportunities for students to apply what they are learning and to practice problem-solving skills. In addition, students are more likely to relax and take cognitive risks when engaging in non-graded fun activities.

Collecting used greeting cards from families provides an opportunity for them to donate and participate in their child's education without incurring an additional expense.

Note: Be mindful that the subject matter on the card does not include any culturally and/or personally sensitive images, icons, sayings, or themes.

The Power of Playful Learning: The Green Edition by Joyce Hemphill, Laura Scheinholtz, and Heather Von Bank includes games and activities that can be made almost entirely from common household recyclables to support and complement the classroom curriculum.

Joyce Hemphill is the co-author of *The Power of Playful Learning: The Green Edition*, 2015, Capstone Professional

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