



UPPER GRADE
Quick Connection
Community Builder Cards





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ACTION INTROS

Everyone takes turns introducing themselves with an action word place before their first name that begins with the same letter (e.g., Leaping Larry).



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ADD A BEAT

One person begins by creating a beat, using only his or her body (clapping, snapping, whistling, etc.). The next person joins in with a new sound or variation of the beat. Each person adds a new sound until everyone is participating.



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ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Students must work together to get in alphabetical order according to their first names.



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ARE YOU WITH ME?

Sit in a circle with one person standing in the center. The person in the center states one thing about him or herself. Anyone who shares that commonality has to quickly get up and change seats. The last person standing is the next to share in the center of the circle.



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BALL TOSS

While holding a ball, one student announces a category (e.g., sports, plants, president, celebrities). That person names something that belongs in that category, then tosses the ball to someone who then has to quickly name something else in that category, before tossing the ball to someone else. Start over with a new category if someone is stumped.

Materials: ball or wadded paper



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BIRTHDAY ORDER

Students must work together to get in order according to their birthdays, from January to December.





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BUDDY TO BUDDY

Stand with a buddy and listen for the announcer to call out two body parts to connect (e.g., "Elbow to nose "). After all pairs connect, the announcer says, "switch," and everyone must find a new buddy. The last person to pair up becomes the new announcer.



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CATCH ON

Choose a topic (e.g., vegetables) and toss a ball, naming something from the category with each catch. When someone repeats an item or can't think of something, start over with a new category.

Materials: ball or wadded up paper



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CATEGORY CALL OUT

Someone announces a category (e.g., favorite color), and everyone forms groups as fast as possible based on their answers (e.g., all of the greens in one group, all of the pinks in one group, etc.).



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CHARADES

A student chooses a card from a deck of picture or word cards. He or she then acts out what is on the card, and the group guesses what it is.

Materials: cards with pictures or words



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CIRCLE THE CIRCLE

Everyone stands in a circle and joins hands with a hula-hoop plays over the arm of one person. The challenge is to find a way to move the hula-hoop all the way around the circle while all hands remain joined.

Materials: hula-hoop



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CLAP, SLAP, SNAP

One person start as the leader and create a clap, slap, snap pattern for the whole group to follow. Switch leaders and repeat.





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DO THE WAVE

In a large circle, one person begins by lifting his or her hands up into the air and bringing them back down, and is quickly followed by the next person, followed by the next (and so on), creating a "wave" around the circle.



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DON'T BREAK THE LINE

Lay a rope or line of tape on the floor with everyone standing in random order. The challenge is to line up in height order while keeping at least one foot on the line at all times.

Materials: rope, string, or masking tape



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FIRST LETTER, LAST LETTER

The first person picks a category (e.g., food) and starts by naming something in that category (e.g., fish). The next person has to name something that falls in the category and starts with the last letter of the previously named item (e.g., ham).



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FOLLOW THE LEADER

Form a line with everyone's hands on the shoulders of the person in front of him or her. Follow the leader as he or she navigates the classroom and calls out different pretend obstacles that will change the manner of movements (e.g., sticky mud, slippery ice, wind blowing from the front, lily pads across the water etc.).



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FORTUNATELY, UNFORTUNATELY

Gather children into a circle and announce a story prompt. Challenge the group to go around the circle, with each child adding one sentence to the story. The sentence that should alternately begin with "fortunately" or "unfortunately". Example: It was a dark and stormy night. 1) Fortunately, I'm not afraid of the dark. 2) Unfortunately, I don't like the storms.



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FREEZE RIPPLE

Everyone walks quietly around the room with the person who is "it" walking amongst them. The person who is "it" secretly taps someone on the shoulders, who then freezes. When others notice that someone is frozen, they must freeze too. See how long it takes for the entire group to notice and freeze.





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FRIENDSHIP WEB

Sit in a circle with one person holding a ball of yarn. The person with the yarn holds the end, give someone a compliment, and rolls the yarn to that person. The person who received the yarn thanks the person for the compliment, hold onto a section of the yarn, and continues rolling the yarn along with a compliment.

Materials: yarn



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FRUIT SALAD

Sitting in a circle, with one person in the center (without a seat), everyone is assigned one of four kinds of fruit (e.g., apple, banana, strawberry, pear). The person in the center calls out a fruit, and those people quickly get up and change seats. The last person standing calls out the next fruit. If "fruit salad" is called, everyone gets up and finds a new seat.



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GOTCHA

Begin with everyone sitting in a circle. On the count of three everyone must look in one of three directions: 1) at the person on the right, 2) at the person on the left, or 3) at the person directly across from them. If two people look at one another, they yell, "Gotcha," and step out of the circle.



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HOLD THAT POSE

One student starts as "it" and calls freeze for everyone else to act like statues. The person who is "it" tries to make the statues break out of character and laugh. The first to laugh becomes "it" for the next round.



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HUMAN KNOT

In small groups, standing in circles, everyone randomly grabs two other hands. Next, everyone must work together to unravel the knot without letting go of any hands.



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HUMAN WORD SEARCH

Give each child a paper with a letter on it. Challenge children to combine their letters to form a word.

Materials: strips of paper





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IN AND AROUND

Everyone stands in a circle and hold hands. One person starts in the middle of the circle and calls in another person to join him or her. Continue adding people to the middle, one at a time -the last person in calls in the next person. See how many people can fit in the middle without breaking hands.



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KEEP IT UP

Toss a balloon around the circle without skipping over any one and without letting it drop. Students may only touch the balloon one time with one hand.

Materials: balloons



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PASS IT

Sitting in a circle, the group has to quickly pass the ball around as the leader calls out different instructions (e.g., pass behind your back, pass to every other person, move closer together, move farther apart, etc.).

Materials: ball



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POPCORN

Everyone slowly walks around the room. Once everyone has spread out, the chosen announcer calls out a number and an object (e.g., "two, rocking chair!"). Those who are walking must form groups of that number and create that object with their bodies. Switch announcers and repeat.



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QUESTION TOSS

Everyone writes a general question (e.g., What is your favorite movie?) on a piece of paper, signs their name, and crumples it into a ball. Then, students form a circle and toss the questions into the center. Next, everyone chooses a question, finds the person who wrote it, and answers it.

Materials: strips of paper



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SAY MY NAME

Form a circle with one person standing in the middle. The person in the middle says someone's name three times quickly. The person whose name is being called must say the middle person's name before the third time. If he or she can't, they switch places, and the new middle person chooses a name to say three times quickly.





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SHAPE SHIFTERS

When the announcer calls out a number and an object, everyone must quickly get into groups of that number and arrange their bodies to create the object.



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SHRINKING ICEBERG

Place squares together on the floor to create an "iceberg." Students must have at least one foot on it at all times without touching the ground outside the sheet. Take away one square at a time until the group can no longer squeeze onto the iceberg.

Materials: carpet/cardboard squares



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SILENT ORDER

Everyone is randomly assigned a number. Without talking, the group must work together to line up in order.



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SILENT SQUEEZE

Form a circle with everyone holding hands. One person starts a "silent squeeze" (e.g., short, long, gentle) that students must pass on exactly as they receive it. The person who started announces whether the squeeze made it around the circle without changing.



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SNAKE'S TAIL

Form one line with everyone's hands on the shoulders of the person in front of him or her when the leader says, "go" the person in front of the line tries to catch the person in back of the line-without letting the line come apart.



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STOLEN GOLD

Sit in a circle with one person standing in the middle. Someone sitting has a hidden penny. At "go," those seated begin slyly passing the coin around the circle. The coin can reverse direction at any time, and others can pretend to pass it. The person in the middle calls "stop" and guesses who has the coin.





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SUPERMARKET

One person says, "I went to the supermarket and bought and _____ (something that begins with "a"). The next person repeats the previous sentence, and adds an item that begins with "B". Continue adding to the list all the way to "z".



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TELEPHONE

One person whispers a message to the person sitting to his or her left. That person then passes the message to the next person, and so on. The last person to receive the message says it out loud.



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THE HUMAN CHAIR

Stand together in a tight circle, facing the back of the person in front, with hands on his or her shoulders. On the count of three, everyone sits on the lap of the person directly behind him or her.



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TP TALK

As a roll of toilet paper gets passed around, everyone takes one to ten squares. After everyone has their toilet paper, reveal that the number of squares is the number of facts each person needs to reveal about him or herself. Then start sharing.

Materials: toilet paper



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WANDER BREAK

One person starts as the announcer and everyone else as wanderers. When the announcer says, "Wander!" Everyone slowly walks around the room. When the announcer calls out, "break" and a number(e.g.,)"Break four!". Everyone gathers into groups of that number.



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WHAT GOES DOWN

Form two lines facing each other. Everyone holds out and index finger facing up so that the fingers form a line down the center. A yardstick (or other object) is placed across the outstretched fingers, and the group must lower the yard stick to the floor together, without using any other finger or other part of their body, and without curling their finger around it.





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WHERE'S MY HERD?

Everyone is randomly assigned an animal (assign two to six people the same animal). When the leader says, "go," everyone begins making the sound of their animals, while listening to find the rest of their "herd." Optional: index cards with the name of an animal



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WHO AM

On a strip of paper, everyone writes something about himself or herself that they would like to share, and that others may not know. After writing, crumple the strips into balls and mix them up in the center of the circle. Everyone takes turns choosing and reading and trying to identify the person described on the paper.

Materials: strips of paper



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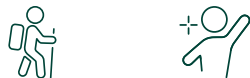
WHO'S THE LEADER

One person is "it" and leaves the room (or closes his or her eyes and covers his or her ears in the corner). The rest of the group picks one person to be the leader, who will begin doing a movement (e.g., tapping feet, clapping hands) for everyone to follow. When the leader begins a new movement, everyone may switch as well. The person who is "it" rejoins the group and has to guess who the leader is.



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WHY? BECAUSE

The first person writes down a "why" question (e.g. Why is the sky blue?) on top of a piece of paper. He or she folds the paper, and passes it to the next person, who - without seeing what was written before - writes an answer beginning with "because" (e.g., Because owls are nocturnal.). Keep it going and read it all out loud for a funny story.

Materials: paper and pencil



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WORD ASSOCIATIONS

One person begin stating any random word (e.g., banana). The next person repeats the first word and adds another word associated with the first word (e.g., split). The next person repeat the last word and as a word associated with that one (e.g., lip), and so on.



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WORD SCRAMBLE

Everyone receives a card with either a scrambled or unscrambled the word written on it. The challenge is to find a person with the scrambled/ unscrambled version of the word and sit down together.

Materials: cards with spelling words-half spelled correctly, half scrambled

