

Elem Social- September

Animal Upon Animal Stacking Game

Be the first player to stack all your animal pieces on the base without causing the stack to collapse.

Setup:

- Each player receives seven wooden animal pieces.
- The crocodile (or other central piece) is placed in the center of the play area.

Gameplay:

- Players take turns rolling a die.
- Die faces and actions:
 - One dot: Place one animal piece on the stack.
 - Two dots: Place two animal pieces on the stack.
 - Hand: Give one of your animal pieces to another player to stack.
 - Question Mark: Other players choose which of your animal pieces you must stack.
 - Crocodile/Mountain: Place one animal piece on the base of the stack, extending it.

Stacking: Players use one hand to carefully place their animal pieces on the stack.

Collapses: If any pieces fall during a player's turn, the active player takes back 2 (or a limited number, depending on the variation) of the fallen pieces.

Winning: The first player to stack all their animal pieces wins.

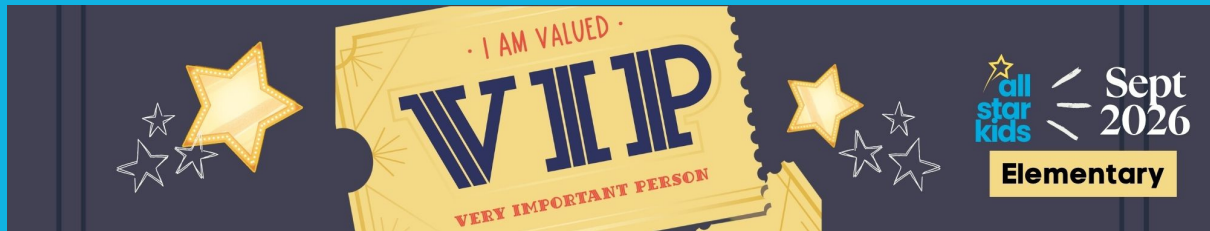
Connect It: This game was so fun! It was great to see you all learn more about each other. Raise your hand if you learned something new about a friend today. (Allow kids to respond.) That's great! Let's keep learning more about our group today!

Building Set

Big Goal: Remove barriers to belonging.

Supplies: Building Sets

Connect It: "Humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7b. How can building with blocks or sticks show us God and how he sees each of us? What does it show you about details? What does it show you about someone else? What does it show you about mistakes or mess-ups? What does it show you about the possibility for God to know more than we do?



Elem Social- September 6

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is one thing that makes you smile?
- If you could only eat pizza or tacos for the rest of your life, which would you choose, and what would you want on them?
- What is your favorite thing about fall?
- If you could instantly be an expert at something, what would it be?

Point and Pick

Kids will travel to one end of the room to the other based on how they relate to specific categories.

Supplies: Dice (1 per group)

What To Do: All right everyone, let's play "Point and Pick!" What are we playing? (*Point and Pick!*) That is right! One of you will stand in the center of the room and roll the dice. The number you roll will determine how many times you get to point and pick. For example, if you roll a two, you will have two turns to point left and right and give options for each. You can point left and say, "Cats" and right and say, "Dogs!" Then the rest of our teammates will pick which option they like best and move to that side of the room. But since the player in the middle rolled a two, then that person will offer another choice afterward, like summer or winter.

After each time you point and the rest of our team picks and moves, you get to point to the side that *you* would pick as well. Say, "Let's point and pick!" (*Let's point and pick!*)

Keep It Going: Give kids opportunities to suggest categories. Alternatively, have kids perform a certain action based on their preference instead of moving across the room. (Example: Hop on one foot if you like baseball or reach up to the sky if you like soccer.)

Leader Tip: Remind kids to move carefully throughout the room so that they don't run into each other. Offer suggestions for kids if they need help.

Suggested Prompts:

Football or basketball

Math or science

Cats or dogs

Tacos or pizza

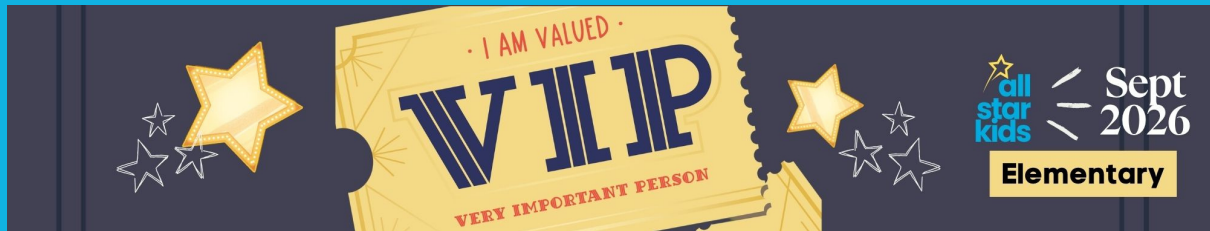
Winter or summer

Books or movies

Waking up early or staying up late

Breakfast or dinner

Connect It: Look at all the different options we picked! Even though we like different things, we still get to be part of the same group and celebrate each other. And it was so cool to see each of you choose different prompts for us! When we notice and celebrate what we have in common and what makes us different, it helps us all know we belong.



Elem Social- September 6

Piece of the Puzzle

Kids will work together to arrange note cards in the correct verse order.

Big Goal: Learn the Theme verse and work together to remember that God values all people.

Leader Prep: Mix up the pieces and place them in a bucket, setting that bucket on one side of the room. Use the Theme Verse Poster,, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

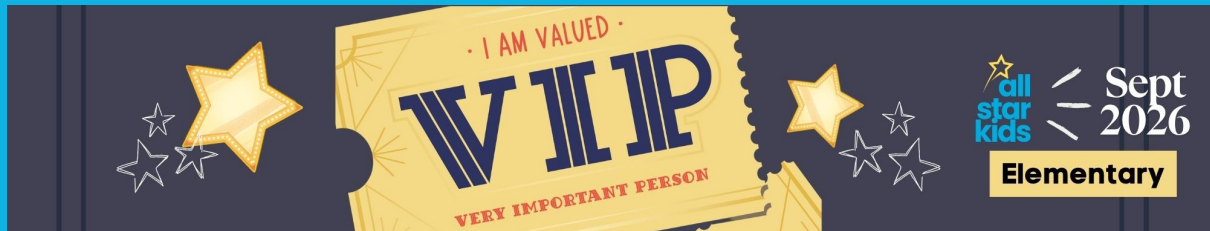
Supplies: "Piece Of The Puzzle" printable on cardstock (2 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Bucket (1 per group), Pool noodle (optional)

What To Do: Two teams will race, putting together puzzle pieces that make up our Theme verse. Let me hear you say, "Piece of the Puzzle!" (Piece of the Puzzle!) But there are two twists! Everyone, say, "Ooo, two twists!" (Ooo, two twists!) The first twist is that this is not a regular puzzle. The shape is a circle with one round piece in the middle and curved pieces that go around that circle. The curved pieces are the same shape, so you will need to make sure you put them together in order. The second twist is that the puzzles pieces are all mixed up. One player from your team at a time will hurry to the bucket on the other side of the room, take a puzzle piece, and bring it back to your team. If it is a piece you need, that is great! The next person in line will hurry to grab another piece. If you do not need it, give it to the next person to return it and pick up a new piece. The first team to get all its pieces, put the Theme verse in order, and say the Theme verse out loud wins. Let's play!

Keep It Going: Assign one person to be a "blocker" who stands still and tries to tag players with a pool noodle. Tagged players then freeze while they count to five before they keep playing.

Leader Tip: Celebrate teamwork more than speed. Encourage everyone to participate.

Loud And Clear: You did it! When we put the Theme verse together, we can read about God's love for us. John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus! When we trust and follow Jesus, we can enjoy eternal life, which means life now and forever with God. This Bible verse is God's way of saying, "You matter to Me! I made you with worth, and I want you to enjoy a relationship with Me forever!" Say, "God made me with worth!" (God made me with worth!)



Elem Social- September 13

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is one of your favorite snacks?
- If you could have a robot butler or a pet dragon, which would you choose and why?
- If you could design your dream bedroom, what are three things you would put in it?
- If you could visit any imaginary world for a day, where would you go and what would you do?

Color Corners

Kids will travel to different corners of the room and learn about each other.

Leader Prep: Tape yellow, blue, green, and red construction paper in each corner of the room, one color per corner.

Supplies: Construction paper (4 per group), Clear tape (1 per group), Music and music player (1 per group)

What To Do: Hey, everyone! It is great to see you all! Look around the room. Do you see papers taped in the corners of our space? (Allow responses.) What colors do you see? (Red, yellow, blue, and green!) That is right! Today we are going to play a game called "Color Corners!" What is it called? (Color Corners!) Right! I will play some music. While it plays, you will tiptoe around the room. When the music stops, hurry to the closest corner and freeze. Ready? Go! (Play music and allow time for kids to tiptoe around the room.) Everybody, freeze! Look around your corner. Find a friend or two and tell them your favorite pizza topping in 3-2-1! (Allow time for kids to share with each other.) Great job, everyone! Let's play another round!

(Play more rounds, alternating how long kids walk around.)

Suggested Questions to Answer:

What is your favorite board game?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What is one thing you are good at?

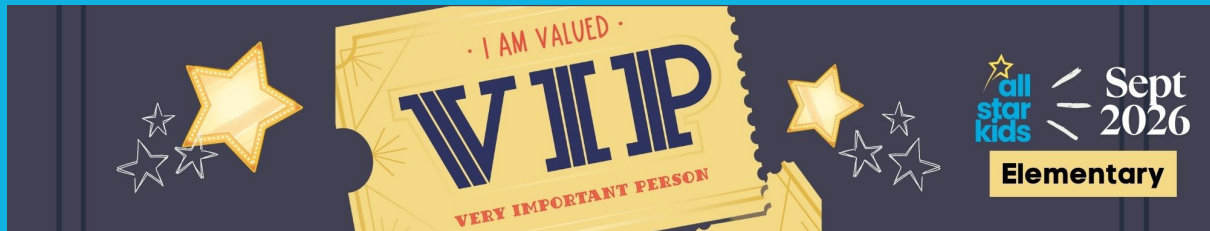
What do you like about school?

What do you do for fun?

Keep It Going: Invite kids to suggest questions to answer. Provide different prompts for how to walk around the room, such as giant steps, skipping, and so forth.

Leader Tip: Go and share responses with kids who end up alone in a corner.

Connect It: That was so much fun! It is great getting to know new things about each other! Did any of you learn anything new about one of your teammates today? (Allow responses.) We all have different things we are good at and unique things we enjoy. We can celebrate that we are each so special and unique! When we do, it can help our teammates know we are glad they're here and that we see the amazing ways God made them!



Elem Social- September 13

Lost Son Roundup

Kids will work together to find cutouts of the lost son around the room.

Big Goal: Remember that Jesus taught about a father who sought out his son, teaching that people are valuable to God.

Leader Prep: Hide the images in various spots around the room, ensuring that kids are able to reach them. Tape the last page of the printable with the father on the bucket. Set the bucket in the center of the room.

1. Direct kids, one at a time, to take the bucket and find a "lost son," placing the image in the bucket with the father.
2. Time the team to see how quickly they can find the images.

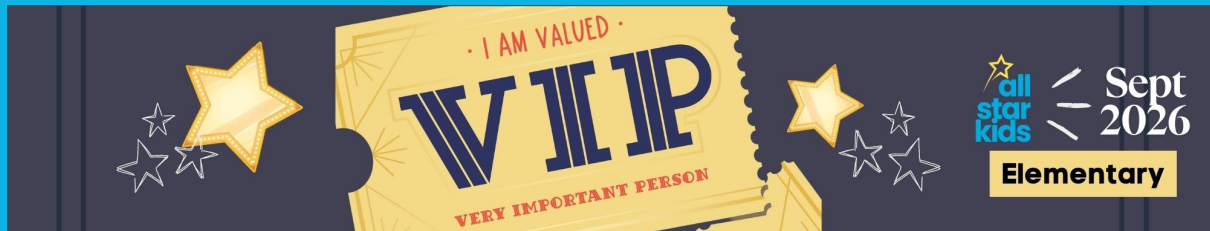
Supplies: "Lost Son Roundup" printable (2-3 per group), Bucket (1 per group), Clear tape (1 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group)

What To Do: Hey, team! We are going to play a game called "Lost Son Roundup!" What is it called? (*Lost Son Roundup!*) That's right! In our Bible story, the father saw the son when the son was still far away. For our game, you won't be able to see the lost son. Say, "We won't?" (*We won't?*) You won't because I have hidden lots of pictures of the lost son from our Bible story throughout the room, and you need to find them! One at a time, you will take the bucket with the picture of the father from our Bible story and seek after the lost son. When you find one, put it in the bucket and pass the bucket to a teammate, who will then get to go seeking too. One "lost son" is hidden for each of you. I will time us to see how quickly we can find them. If you are ready to start seeking, say, "I am ready!" (*I am ready!*)

Keep It Going: Play again, inviting kids to hide the pictures.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to help the players in trying to find the lost sons in the room.

Loud And Clear: Great job, VIPs! You went seeking for the lost son. This reminds us about the father in our Bible story. The father knew his son was valuable, and God knows that we are valuable! Point to yourself and say, "I am valued!" (*I am valued!*) God loves you so much. God says you are valuable not because of anything you have done, but because you belong to Him! Let me hear you say, **God seeks me! (God seeks me!)**



Elem Social- September 20

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is the first thing you like to do after school?
- If you had to choose, would you rather spend your day at the beach or at a water park?
- If you could go on vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- If you could snap your fingers and have any person transported to where you are in an instant, who would you choose and why?

Mystery Match

Kids will find a card hidden throughout the room, then try to find a friend with a matching card.

Big Goal: Break down barriers to belonging.

Leader Prep: Hide cards throughout the room.

Supplies: "Mystery Match" printable (1 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Stopwatch or Timer (1 per group; optional)

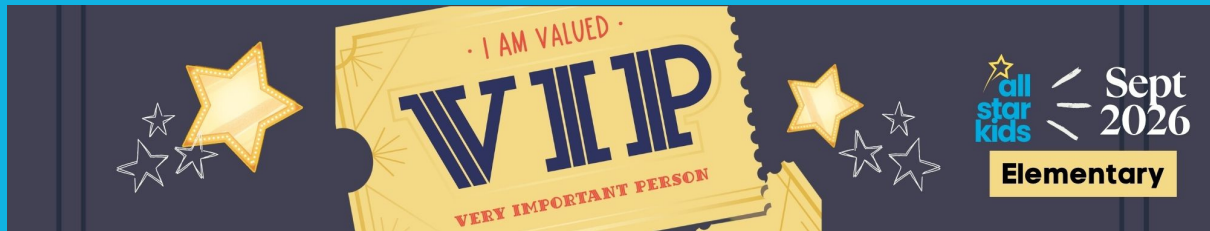
What To Do: All right everyone, it is time to play "Mystery Match!" When I say, "Mystery," you say, "Match!" "Mystery!" (*Match!*) "Mystery!" (*Match!*) I have hidden a bunch of cards around the room, and your mission is to find one. Once you have a card, hold it up high and look for someone who has the same card as you. The twist is (*pause for dramatic effect*) no talking! Work to find your match. When you find a friend with a match, link elbows and hold both cards in the air. We will keep playing until all our matches are found. Ready to search? Let's go!

(Play multiple rounds, allowing different kids to hide the cards in each round.)

Keep It Going: Challenge kids to find matches in 30 seconds.

Leader Tip: Be sensitive to kids who may be uncomfortable with linking elbows, allowing them to stand next to teammates instead.

Connect It: Great work, everybody! Finding a matching card took searching, noticing, and connecting. Just like in the game, we do better when we all look out for each other! That is what it means to be a part of a team! Turn to your neighbor and give a high five! (*Allow time.*)



Elem Social- September 20

Up, Up, Up

Kids will work with teams to keep balloons from touching the ground by following different rules.

Big Goal: See how God uses our unique abilities to accomplish one purpose.

Leader Prep: Gather supplies. Print and display the “Allergy Alert” printable, drawing attention to a potential latex allergy. Inflate and tie two balloons in different colors.

Supplies: “Allergy Alert” printable (1 per group), Marker (1 per group), Balloons (2 per group), Pool noodles (1 per child; optional), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group; optional)

What To Do: It is time to play “Up, Up, Up!” Up, up, what? (*Up!*) That is right! We are going to make two teams and play three rounds. How many rounds? (*Three!*) You got it! (*Assign kids to teams.*)

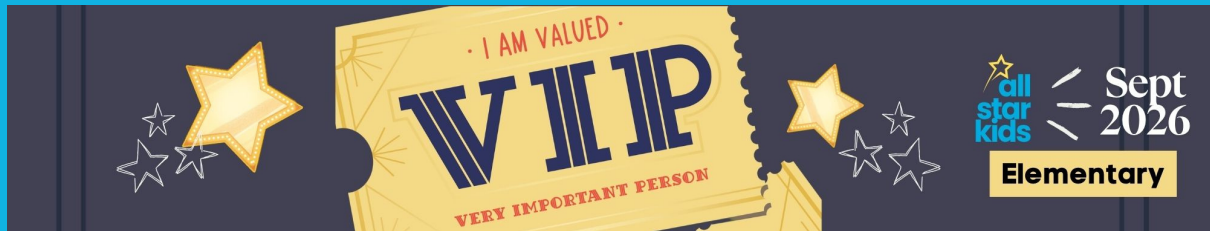
Say, “Round one!” (*Round one!*) For round one, line up with your team from front to back with an arms-length between each of you. The first player will tap the balloon up and behind you. The next player will tap it up and to keep the balloon going backward. This will be a race between our two teams to tap and pass your team’s balloon all the way to the back, then back up to the front. The first team to finish wins! If your team’s balloon touches the ground, skips one of your teammates, or someone taps it twice, your team has to start over. Ready? Let’s keep those balloons up! (*Allow time and celebrate the winner.*)

Say, “Round two!” (*Round two!*) This time, your team will stand, arms-length apart, in a circle. The first player will go to the middle and toss your team’s balloon in the air before stepping back to your spot. Then the player to your right will step into the circle, tap, and move back. You will keep going like that until we get to the last person. Once that last person taps, we will reverse the order and keep the balloon in the air until it returns to the first player. The same round-one rules apply. Ready? Keep those balloons up and let’s play. (*Allow time and celebrate the winner.*)

Say, “Round three!” (*Round three!*) In this final round, the teams will each stand shoulder to shoulder in lines, 6 feet apart, facing each other. The first person on one team and the last person on the other team will come to the middle and toss your team’s balloon into the air. Hurry back to your spot because the player next to you will not be able to go and tap until you have gotten back! We will only go down the line one time because this one is super challenging! The same round-one and round-two rules apply with two additional rules. You cannot toss the balloon *backward* toward your team, and you cannot tap the other team’s balloon. Otherwise, your team will have to start again. If you are ready, say, “Up, up, up!” (*Up, up, up!*) (*Allow time and celebrate the winner.*)

Keep It Going: Switch up how players can hit the balloons. Examples: Use only your elbows, hit the balloon with your head, hit it with only one finger, and so forth.

Leader Tip: Communicate that gentleness will be most effective. Discourage running or hitting the



Elem Social- September 27

Warm Up Questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is your favorite way to relax after school?
- If you had to choose, would you rather play outside all day or stay inside all day? What would you do?
- If you could design your dream vacation, where would you go—the beach, the mountains, or a big city? Why?
- If you could turn into any animal for one day, what would you be? What is the first thing you would do?

Freeze Dance Frenzy

Kids will dance around to music and freeze while one player attempts to roll a ball and get another player out.

Big Goal: Eliminate barriers to belonging.

Supplies: Music and music player (1 per group), Hula hoop (1 per group), Playground ball (1 per group), Blindfold (1 per group)

What To Do: Let's get ready to move! This game is called "Freeze-Dance Frenzy!" What is it called? (*Freeze-Dance Frenzy!*) When the music plays, dance and move around the room however you like—wiggle, spin, jump, or do exercise moves. When the music stops, freeze like a statue and hold your pose.

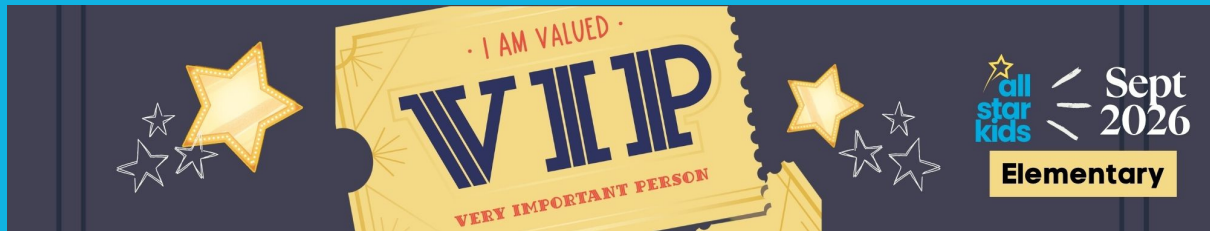
Pay attention because there is a twist. Say, "Ooo, a twist!" (*Ooo, a twist!!*) One of you will be in this hula hoop in the center of the room, wearing a blindfold and holding a playground ball. When the music stops, you will roll the ball in any direction you like. Whoever the ball runs into or is closest to when it stops will become the new player in the middle. Ready? Let's dance!

Keep It Going: Challenge kids to try different dance styles, like moving like robots, moving in slow motion, hopping on one foot, and so forth.

Safety Tip: Monitor and remind kids to roll the ball rather than throw the ball.

Leader Tip: Consider allowing kids to close their eyes if they are uncomfortable with the blindfold.

Connect It: Did you notice the fun and different dance moves everyone chose? Those were so cool! Let me hear you say, "So cool!" (*So cool!!*) We are all part of the same team, but that doesn't mean we all do things the exact same way! Our different dance moves showed that each team member is special and unique, but we all belong and are valued here! I'm so glad you're part of the ____ Team today! Everyone here is seen, valued, and part of the team!



Elem Social- September 27

All Access Wristband-Object Lesson

Kids will tape wristbands around their wrists.

Leader Prep: Print and cut out copies of the “All-Access Wristband,” providing one wristband for each child.

Supplies: “All-Access Wristband” printable (1-2 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group), Clear tape (1 per group)

What to Say: Hey everyone, I want to show you all something really cool. *(Hold up the wristband.)* This is an All-Access wristband. Everybody, say, “Ooo!” *(Ooo!)* Say, “Ahh!” *(Ahh!)* An All-Access wristband means that you get to go somewhere or do something that people without the wristband do not get to do. An All-Access wristband gives you special access—nobody can stop you because you have this pass. This pass is what grants you special access. You do not have to do anything special—just having the pass is enough.

What I have to say next is for people with All-Access wristbands only. Does anyone in here have an All-Access wristband? *(Allow response.)* Well, it is great that everyone in here has one!

If you have an All-Access wristband, shake it in the air and say, “I’ve got access!” *(I’ve got access!)*

Great! I am wondering, what does an All-Access wristband have to do with God? The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus, His one and only Son, so we can have all-access to Him. That means we can talk with Him, hear from Him, and enjoy life with Him every day. We do not earn access to God by always doing the right thing. Jesus is the One who gives us an “All-Access” relationship with God. We can talk with God, know God, and be part of His family, right now and forever—all because of Jesus.

When you trust in Jesus and commit to following Him, you are automatically given an “All-Access pass.” You cannot do anything to earn it, but Jesus gives it away freely. This has been God’s plan from the very beginning. Jesus makes us alive, forgives us, and is the way for us to be a part of God’s family. God sent Jesus for you! Hold your All-Access wristbands in the air and say, **“God sent Jesus for me!”** *(God sent Jesus for me!)*