



9. Number Group Mania!

By announcing the group size and which student numbers should be in each group, the teacher has students form random groups.

Setup: Students each have a number from 1 to 4.

- 1** The teacher announces: (1) group size, and (2) the student numbers in the group.
 Examples:
 - “Form pairs with a classmate with the same number as you.”
 - “Form teams of four with a number 1, 2, 3, and 4—all from different teams.”
- 2** Students stand up, use fingers to show a student number (1 to 4), and group accordingly.
- 3** The teacher presents a problem or task for the new random pairs or groups and has them interact using a structure such as
 - RallyRobin
 - Timed Pair Share
 - RoundRobin
 - Three-Step Interview

• **Related Structure.** StandUp–HandUp–PairUp is another grouping structure, used to form pairs.



Implementing Brain-Friendly Teaching Principles

► **Nourishment.** Students move about the classroom forming groups of the announced size and composition. In the process, they pump more nutrients to the brain.

► **Safety.** Teachers are encouraged to have students do some brief teambuilding every time new groups are formed to ensure safety. Teambuilding can be as brief as conducting a **RoundRobin** during which students share their name and something fun they like to do over the weekend. Positive social interaction is enhanced by teaching students welcoming gambits like, “Come join us,” and, “We need you in our group.” “Glad you are in our group.”

► **Social.** Students acquire different social skills in different groups. By re-forming

groups, students have an opportunity to interact with and learn from different classmates.

► **Emotion.** Excitement is generated as students rush to find their new groupmates. Students are encouraged to welcome their new groupmates with compliments and/or greetings.

► **Attention.** Students are more alert following **Number Group Mania!** because of the novelty as well as the movement.

► **Stimuli.** Variety lights up the brain. **Number Group Mania!** provides variety in the form of new teammates with whom to interact.