

No. 5905

## "Hands Up" Dry Erase Answer Boards®

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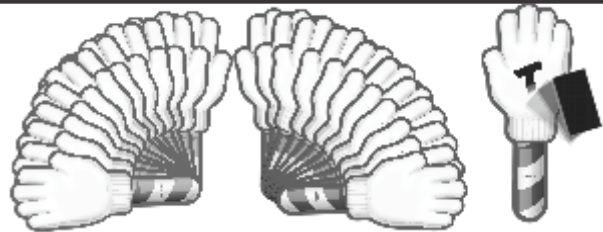
"Hands Up" Dry Erase Answer Boards® are perfect for engaging students in a range of curriculum based activities. Unlike chalkboards, answer boards are easy for children to use without any chalk dust. Here are some guidelines:

1. Use only dry erase markers or crayons on the boards. Tip: Dry erase markers dry out very quickly. If a cap is left off of them accidentally, try re-covering the end with the cap and stand them on their cap end for 24 hours. This may rejuvenate the marker and make it useful again.
2. Most dry erase markers and crayons are easily cleaned off with regular water. If you find that water does clean the marker off sufficiently, try a mixture of ½ cup white vinegar to 3 cups water. Put the mixture in a spray bottle and spray lightly over the board. Wipe with a paper towel. Alternatively try full strength or diluted window cleaning solution.
3. A small square of felt works very well to remove marker.
4. Give each child in the class their own answer board.
5. Use colored markers.
6. Use answer boards to help children develop both their fine and gross motor skills. Develop fine motor skills by using the boards to draw, print letters and trace numbers. Work on gross motor skills by holding up the boards throughout the day.
7. If you accidentally use permanent marker on the answer board try removing it by scribbling over top of the stain with regular dry erase marker. Wait and then erase normally.
8. Work as a class to review material or prepare for tests. Print "True" on one side and "False" on the reverse side and make statements about a subject area. You can survey the entire class as they respond by raising their boards.

Here is a list of activities you can try with Answer Boards:

### Language Arts

1. **Spell Your Name:** Children often learn to spell their name before learning any other part of the alphabet. Make learning to spell a family activity! Send an answer board and dry erase marker home with each child. Ask parents to neatly spell the child's name on the board. Tip: Because handwriting differs and you may want to teach a consistent alphabet to your students, send a photocopied alphabet home with the child.
2. **Learn Letters:** Once children have mastered their name, focus on individual letters of the alphabet. Ask parents or volunteers to neatly write a letter onto a dry erase board. Children can use this letter as a reference when writing down the letter over and over again on regular paper.



3. **Explore Sight Words:** Write 24 sight words on the answer boards. Go over the words with your students. Write out a sentence or paragraph on the board with blanks left out that correspond to some of the sight words. Read over the paragraph with students and ask them to choose the words that best fill in the blanks.

4. **Create Rhyming Words:** Write out a common two or three letter word ending, i.e. "at," on one answer board. On the other boards write out single letters. Ask students to go through the letters one by one to create rhyming words.

### Sorting

1. **Sort Images:** Draw images on the answer boards that can be grouped or categorized by students. Give the boards to a group of students and ask them to arrange the images into groups. For instance, draw people, animals and plants on the boards and watch as students organize the boards into three piles. Tip: Use colored markers.

2. **Group Rhyming Words:** Write out three or four words that belong to word families on the answer boards. Once you've filled out all of the words on all of the boards, ask students to group the words into word families.

### Sequencing

1. **Create a Chronology:** Start by drawing a sequence of images on individual answer boards. Mix up the boards and ask students to put the sequence back in proper order. Use stick people to make illustrating the sequence easy and to inspire your students to make their own characters.

### Games

1. **Promote Strategic Thinking:** Tic-Tac-Toe is a fun game for children, but because younger students need to draw large shapes, you may find that playing tic-tac-toe uses too much paper. Teach the rules and hand out one dry erase board for every two students. Give each child a different color marker and have a third one handy to draw the grid. While children play the game they will develop fine motor skills.

2. **Word Scrambles:** Write out letters on answer boards. Tip: Use both sides to maximize the potential. Ask students to sort through the boards and arrange the letters into words. Divide students into groups and ask them to make as many words together using the answer boards as possible.

3. **Exercise Game:** Organize exercise time by drawing stick people characters in different action poses on answer boards. For instance, draw a stick person bending at the waist, jumping, standing on one foot,



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etc. Hold up the answer boards in random order to direct children's exercise.

4. **Caption Action:** Clip out pictures from newspapers and magazines. Hand out answer boards to students. Hold up one of the pictures and ask students to write a two to five word caption describing the picture. Go through the captions to identify common elements. Once students are familiar with the process, start the game. Show the picture to the classroom and ask the students to write their caption. Select one student to read their caption. Examine the rest of the captions to determine how many other students had a similar response.

## Art

1. **Practice Shapes:** Draw a basic shape on one side of an Answer Board. Let children draw over top of the shape many, many times to become familiar with making the shape. Once they have mastered the shape, they can flip the board over and draw it one more time on the reverse side. Use this side to evaluate student's progress. Tip: To help familiarize children with the names of shapes, write the name in small letters under the shape at the bottom of the board. This basic activity can be used for letters and numbers, too.

2. **Learn to Draw:** Because of the easy-to-correct nature of Answer Boards, children can take more risks with their drawing. Start with something easy like making stick figures. Direct children to make a stick figure person standing up, sitting down or crawling. Once children have mastered basics, ask them to practice drawing more complex structures like facial features.

3. **Add Elements:** Some children have a hard time creating expressive artwork. Use answer boards to get the creative juices flowing! Start by drawing an oval onto the board. Add two ears on either side of the oval to make a face. Ask children to add features and give the face a hair-doo!

4. **Illustrate:** Children can work on a story board or a flip book with answer boards. Start with an easy subject like stick people walking through a park using all 24 boards. Once the story has been "scripted" on the boards, transfer it to paper.

## Mathematics

1. **Learn Numbers:** On one side of the answer boards draw a number from 1-24. Tip: You can introduce a smaller range of numbers that is more appropriate for your students' developmental level. On the reverse side draw a set of dots or tally marks to represent the number. Tip: When drawing dots or tally marks, group them in fives to make counting larger numbers easier. Hand out the Answer Boards to students. Ask them how many dots or tally marks are on one side of their boards. Once they have their answer they can flip the boards over to check their answers.

2. **Introduce Equations:** Once you have all of your answer boards already numbered (from above) use the numbers to form equations. Start by placing two of the answer boards with the dots or tally marks facing up. Cut out a paper "Plus" sign and put it between the two boards. Ask children to count the dots or tally marks to solve the equation.

3. **Equation Evaluation:** Once students are familiar with counting and equations, you can use the answer boards to help evaluate them. Write an equation at the front of the class or on

an overhead projector. Ask students to write down the answer to the equation on their answer board. Once everyone is finished, ask the class to hold up their answers in unison. At a glance you can see who gets the right answer and who needs follow up reinforcement of the material.

4. **Start Graphing:** Answer boards are ideal for gathering data for early graphing projects. Start by writing Yes on one side of all of the boards and No on the reverse side. Ask students a basic question like, "Are you wearing an article of clothing that is red in color?" Children examine their clothes and hold up the answer board with the appropriate answer facing forward. The teacher or a student volunteer can go through the class counting the number of Yes and No answers. Once the classroom tally is complete, graph the results.

5. **Currency Counting:** On an answer board, write out an amount in the form of dollars, i.e. \$1.45. Ask students to sort through play money to make an equivalent amount using bills and coins. Encourage students to come up with different combinations of money that total the same amount.

## Classroom Organization

1. **Classroom Activities:** Organize your classroom chores with answer boards. List the chores you need to do in one day and then record each item on a separate answer board. Fan out the Answer Boards with the handle facing out. To assign tasks to students, ask students one-by-one to pick a handle and read what is printed on the Answer Board. That is their chore.

2. **Activity Centers:** For younger children, classroom activity centers can provide too much stimulation. They simply don't know where to begin. Use answer boards to make it easier. Write the name of each center on two or three answer boards. Ask students to select one answer board and then go to that activity center.

## Directions and Mapping Skills

1. **Learn Directions:** Draw arrows on the answer boards including left, right, up, down, etc. In front of the class, hold up one arrow at a time and tell children in what direction it points. Tip: Write the direction on the arrow on the reverse side as reference. Once children are familiar with the directions, hold up the signs and ask them as a class to recite the directions. To add movement to the activity, ask students to point in the direction as they say it.

2. **Dry Erase Road Signs:** Go for a walk around the neighborhood and record the street signs you see on the dry erase boards. Start by lining up the students. Ask children to point out the first sign they see. Once a sign is identified, the first child in line copies it onto one side of his or her Answer board. Once complete, that child goes to the back of the line. The class then proceeds on their strolling tour and looks for another sign. When a new sign is identified, the child who is now at the front of the line copies it onto his or her answer board and goes to the back of the line. Continue looking for signs and copying them until all the children have had a turn. Back in the class, ask students to reorganize themselves in chronological order, who was first, second, third, etc. Draw a map of the neighborhood using the signs as reference points.