

Circle Time Carpet for 20

With its rainbow of bright colors and space for 20 children, your new carpet is sure to make circle time more exciting—and easier to organize! The carpet is designed to help you manage many classroom activities. Simply have each of your students choose a space to stand or sit upon. Then it's easy to:

- Dismiss children to work at classroom centers by colors.
- Divide children into teams or work groups.
- Direct children to line up in an orderly fashion by colors.

If more organization is required, you can easily assign spaces—simply prepare and distribute colored paper “tickets.” By assigning spaces, you can also use the carpet to take attendance quickly. One glance around the carpet will show you which students are missing!

We're sure you'll find many other ways to use your carpet. In this guide, we've included some games and ideas to get you started. We've also provided helpful cleaning tips to keep your carpet looking fresh and new. You'll find them on the back of this guide.

Simon Says

Play this old favorite in teams to encourage listening skills. First, explain that everyone standing on a red space is on the red team, everyone on a blue space is on the blue team, and so on. Then, slowly give simple directions to one team at a time, such as, “Simon says, green team march in place!” Make the game a little harder by giving directions to two or more teams at once: “Simon says, red team clap your hands and blue team pat your heads!” Add to the fun by having the children close their eyes.

Grandma's Trunk

Try a colorful version of the popular travel game! Have one of the children sitting on a red space begin by saying, “My grandma went on a trip, and she packed a red apple.” Then, have the child on the adjacent purple space say, “My grandma went on a trip, and she packed a purple swimsuit.” Continue going around the circle, with each child naming an item that matches the color she is sitting on, until everyone has had a chance to help Grandma pack her trunk. (To make the game more challenging for older children, direct them to repeat everything that has already been “packed” by other students before adding their new items.)

Color Train

Your students can practice color identification with this fun activity! Invite up to five children to form a “train,” with each child standing on a different space. Direct the train to move along the “track” of colored spaces as everyone sings this song (to the tune of “The Muffin Man”):

*The color train chugs down the track,
Down the track, down the track.
The color train chugs down the track.
What colors are we on?*

When the song ends, have the train stop moving. Invite the children in the train to take turns naming the colors they are standing on.

Form a new train and repeat the game. Continue until everyone has had a chance to play.

Rainbow Mix-Up

Here is an energetic game that reinforces color identification and listening skills!

1. To prepare for the game, cut 12 squares from colored tagboard or construction paper (2 each of red, orange, purple, blue, green and white). Write “Mix-Up!” on the two white squares. Place all of the squares in a paper bag. (You will also need recorded music and an audio player.)
2. Invite each child to pick a colored space and stand on it. To review the colors, have the children take turns naming the colors they are standing on.
3. Start the music and encourage everyone to march around the carpet from space to space. When you stop the music, have the children stop and look down to see what colors they are now standing on.
4. Pull a card from the bag and show it to the children. If the card is purple, say, “Purple spaces, switch places!” Prompt each child standing on a purple space to switch places with another child who is also standing on a purple space. If you pull a white “Mix-Up!” card from the bag, show it and say, “Rainbow Mix-Up!” That is a signal for every child to find a new, differently colored space to stand on. (If a child can’t find a different color space to stand on, invite her to help you pull cards from the bag until another “Mix-Up!” card is chosen.)
5. When everyone has found a new space, return the card to the paper bag, start the music and play again!

The Great Color Race

Improve counting and color skills with an exciting race around the track!

1. To prepare for the game, cut 5 squares from colored tagboard or construction paper (1 each of red, orange, purple, blue and green). Cut 6 white squares, and number them 1 through 6. Place all the squares in a paper bag.
2. Have four "racers" line up near the blue space with the Lakeshore name (this is where the race will start and finish). Invite a non-racing child to pull a card from the bag and show it to the first racer. If the card is a color, the racer may move along the track to the first space of that color. If the card is a number, the racer may move forward that many spaces, counting each space as he steps upon it. Continue for the other racers.
3. If a racer lands on a space that is already occupied by another child, prompt the racer to move forward to the next unoccupied space.
4. When a player circles the track back to the blue Lakeshore space, her race is over and she can join the children who are helping to pull squares from the bag. Invite another child to take her place and join the race, starting at the blue space. Continue until everyone has had a chance to race around the track.
5. For a fun variation that helps build number sense, place the color squares and the numbered squares in two different bags. For each racer's turn, have your helpers pull one square out of the number bag and one square out of the color bag. Allow the racer to choose whether to move based on the numbered square or the color square. Which one will take him farther along the track?

Suggested Cleaning Methods

Professional steam cleaning is the best way to clean your carpet. Many services are available to clean your carpet for you. **Dry cleaning** is your next best choice. It's easy and inexpensive. Simply call Customer Service at the number below and ask for information about our dry-cleaning products. **Traditional shampooing** or **self-serve steam cleaners** are **not** recommended.

Helpful Hints

- Do not walk on the carpet if it is wet or damp.
- Vacuum carpet daily.
- Clean carpet at regular intervals (before carpet is visibly dirty).
- Spot-clean high-traffic areas between overall cleanings.

Storing Your Carpet

When rolling up your carpet, roll it around the tube provided. (Constant rolling & unrolling can cause the backing to crack, so do so only when necessary.) **Beware of electric floor polishers:** Electric floor polishers can be very hard on the edges of your carpet. If your carpet is in an area serviced by this kind of equipment, move it out of the way before any polishing is done.

Spills and Stains

Absorb wet spills with a clean cloth or wet paper towel. Apply a small amount of the recommended cleaning agent to the stain (see chart below). Work from the edges of the stain to the center. Dry the area with a cloth or paper towel. For best results, remove stains *immediately*.

STAIN

RECOMMENDED CLEANING AGENT

Blood.....	Detergent or ammonia diluted with water
Chocolate.....	Detergent or ammonia diluted with water
Clay.....	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Coffee.....	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Cola.....	Detergent or ammonia
Crepe paper dye.....	Detergent or ammonia
Egg.....	Detergent
Food coloring.....	Detergent or ammonia
Glue.....	Detergent or ammonia
Grape juice.....	Detergent or ammonia
Ice cream.....	Detergent
Ink (washable).....	Detergent or ammonia
Ketchup.....	Detergent
Milk.....	Detergent
Mustard.....	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Orange drink.....	Detergent or ammonia
Tea.....	Detergent
Tomato juice.....	Detergent
Urine.....	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Vomit.....	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Watercolors.....	Detergent or ammonia

For Customer Service, call (800) 428-4414