

## A word about...Themes On A Roll Dice Games, Connect The Dot & Tic Tac Toe Monthly/Theme Games

### **Background & Directions:**

- I file these in each of the separate units as well as keep a GAME folder. One is for Tic Tac Toe, one is for Connect The Dots and one is for Themes On A Roll. I have a master of each in monthly chronological order.
- When I'm planning my lessons, if I see that I'll have time for a 10-minute game block I'll run off a class set. Sometimes I'll just do it and have it handy in case I have the time, or in case I'm ill, it's perfect for a sub to toss in for a fill-in.
- I've taught my students how to play these games in the beginning of the year, so it's a breeze to just plug them in whenever.
- They are great for me because they revolve around a theme via the clip art.
- They are wonderful life savers because each one takes just a few minutes. Children choose a partner and can either sit at the tables or play on the floor.
- They not only enjoy them they are reinforcing many of our report card standards as well:
- They are reinforcing "social" "behavioral" and "life skills" of fair play, figuring out strategies, extending their attention span, waiting patiently for their turn, learning self control, building self esteem and using their manners etc.
- They are reinforcing report card standards of recognizing numbers, learning to count, learning how to hold a writing utensil, learning how to write, learning how to make vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines, building vocabulary and learning those vocabulary words, learning numbers, learning the letters X and O and how to write them, learning how to make a square and how to identify that shape etc.
- The children also ENJOY the games and are having FUN while learning.
- This also frees the teacher up to do miscellaneous jobs or whole-group assess how the children are doing, or pull children out and do one-on-one assessing. Enjoy!