

The Passion of a Principal

*The right combination of exercise, math and fun
brings students together on the playground.*

Sam Slarskey, principal at East Falmouth Elementary School in East Falmouth, Mass., is passionate about his school, students, learning and having fun! He created a unique playground game he calls Plinkoball that helps kids develop math skills.

Mr. Slarskey learned that his students liked the Drop Shot Basketball Hoop that features three chutes, because the unpredictability of where the ball comes out was more entertaining than making the shot itself. That caused Mr. Slarskey to think about designing a game that would increase the unpredictability and make the game even more fun and educational at the same time.

The game includes a set of four Drop Shot Basketball Hoops, strategically placed at varying heights, and a bulls-eye designed surface. The Drop Shots are interlocked, one at 12', two at 10' and one at 8' and installed in the middle of the court, which is a set of nine concentric circles, 50 feet in diameter, divided in quadrants and painted on blacktop. Each ring represents a different number, from 1 to 9, and enables a variety of scoring methods.



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**WHAT:
4 Drop Shots (#100042A)**



It's important to funnel into 3 openings.

SCORING

When the ball lands in a basket, it falls unpredictably through one of the three openings into another basket, funneling randomly to the ground. Depending on where the ball is shot from and where it lands on its way out, students score points and practice their math skills. Scoring systems vary and can incorporate a combination of addition and multiplication.

For example, if players picked one of the scoring systems mentioned on the Sample Scoring Sheet they might choose to value the highest basket as three points, the middle baskets as two and the lowest basket as one point. A successful shot could fall through all three baskets and give a value of six (3+2+1). A primary grade level student player shooting from the number six (6) line might choose to add the line giving a value of 12; while intermediate grade level students competing might choose to multiply the line value of six giving a score of 36 (6X6)! Teachers may choose to design a scoring system to reinforce certain math skills or math tables on one day and introduce another scoring system on another day. A full game could be played while using a calculator, pencil and paper, mental math, or just for fun!

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS LOVE IT!

"There are numerous ways to score the path of the ball in this game. With the variable of increasing foul lines, we have created a wonderful setting for varied mathematical algorithms," explained Mr. Slarskey. "Teachers and students are creating new ways to play and practice math, all while staying physically active and having fun!"

Each class can determine the rules for each new game and can keep score using worksheets and by working together. **Visit playsi.com/school-stories to download sample score sheets.**

Do you have a story to share? We would love to hear it. Email us at info@playsi.com or contact us through playsi.com.

Pinball : Open Format Scoring Sheet
Basketball with a Mathematical Attitude

Play **Pinball** (see below) by counting the number of baskets you make from each individual shot. Agree on a basket scoring method. If you wish, include a mathematical operation of addition or multiplication to be used with your foul line shooting value. Enter a per shot value, enter the foul line value and calculate. Total the values for each player.

You can also just shoot for fun!

Shot Number and Foul Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Multiply	Basket(s) Made Value	Foul Line Value	Player's Name:	
			Basket(s) Made Value	Foul Line Value
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
Total				

There are so many ways to play! If each basket is worth (1) point a single shot could score 0, 1, 2, or 3 points. If each basket is worth (2) points, your scores could be 0, 2, 4, or 6. If you feel that the high basket should be worth (3) but the lowest basket one (1) then the possibilities from a single shot are 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

What if you played as **doubling** 2 point basket value, for extra basket made on the single shot! Then the possibilities could be 0, 2, 6, and 16! How about playing football! The highest basket is worth a touchdown (6) and if the ball falls through one more basket it is equal to a point after (1). If you get two more baskets from your high basket touchdown, then it is a conversion (2).

Did you want to ignore the foul line value, add it or multiply.
Can you make another way of scoring?
Remember, you can also just shoot for fun!

Sample Score Sheet

PROUD TO PARTNER

