

Pick a Pip

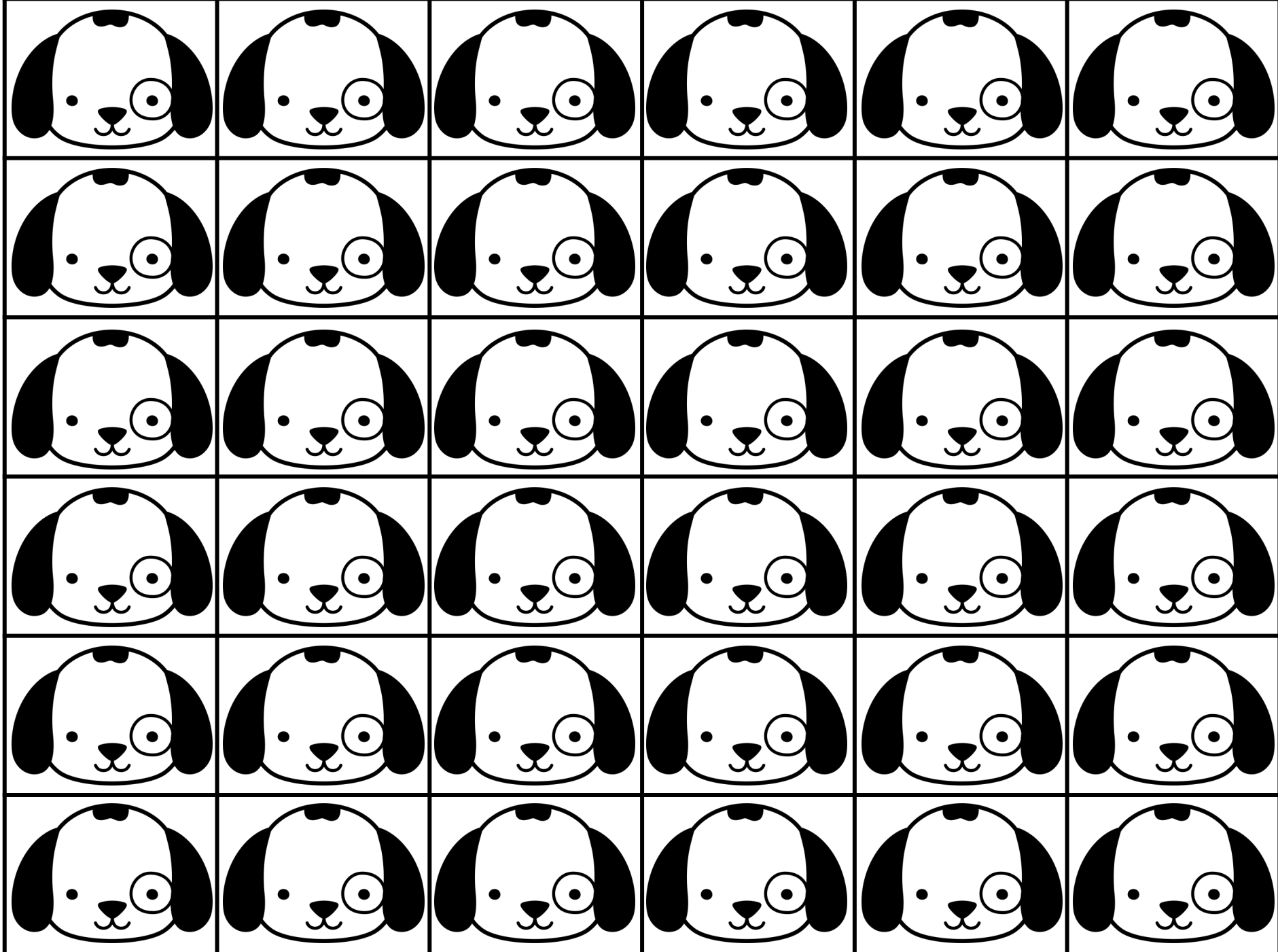
classroom management tool

Classroom teachers can never have too many effective management tools. Pick a Pip, featuring Pip the Pup, is a playful and highly effective strategy that promotes focus and fairness during daily routines and learning activities.

How it works: Place popsicle sticks labeled with each student's name into a container. Randomly select one or two "Pip sticks" before an activity but keep the names secret until the task is complete. Students are reminded that they will not know if they are "Pip" until the end, which encourages everyone to stay on task. After the task, reveal the names and celebrate the students' focus and participation. This simple tool can be used during phonics centers, hallway transitions, carpet time, restroom breaks, or any moment when maintaining engagement is challenging. The anticipation of being chosen motivates students to self-regulate, while the random selection ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to be recognized. *The same popsicle sticks can also be used for random call sticks during whole group lessons.*

Why it matters: Research on effective classroom practices shows that strategies like Pick a Pip help students internalize expectations rather than rely on constant external reminders. Random selection tools also minimize teacher bias, foster a sense of fairness, and help build a supportive classroom community where all students feel included. In addition, giving feedback after the task is complete helps children focus on their behavior in the moment instead of seeking immediate rewards.

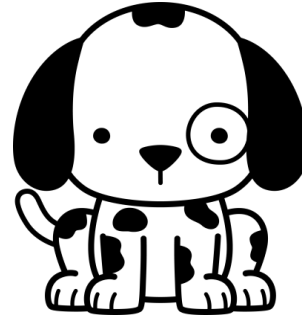
How to make it: Print the Pip the Pup cutouts, attach them to popsicle sticks, and write each student's name on a stick. Place the sticks in a cup or container with the "Pick a Pip" label, and it's ready to use throughout the day.



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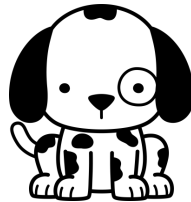
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