

Global School Play Day

Activity Suggestions

1) Snow Painting:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Spray or squirt bottles
 - Food coloring in different colors
- How to play:
 - Mix about 6 drops of food coloring in 1 cup of water.
 - Fill the spray bottles with water mixture.
 - Go out and paint a masterpiece in the snow!

2) Hula Hoop Tic-Tac-Toe:

- Number of participants: 10
- Materials:
 - 9 hula hoops
- How to play:
 - Place the 9 hula hoops in a 3x3 grid.
 - Form a team of 5, with each team choosing Xs or Os.
 - Contort hands into the shape of X or O, taking turns moving to a specific location on the board.
 - The team that gets Tic-Tac-Toe first wins.
- Variation:
 - Have fewer players? Create teams of 3. Once the whole team has been placed, players can then rearrange to try to get Tic-Tac-Toe.

3) Bean Bag Toss:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Bean bags
 - Electrical/duct tape in different colors
- How to play:

- Mark off different target areas using tape. (Different colors or distances can be worth different point values.)
- Participants divide into teams and then take turns tossing bean bags at the targets.
- Once a team reaches a certain score, they win!
- Variation:
 - Add bonus rounds or obstacles for added excitement.
 - Require players to hit an exact target score for more difficulty.
 - Buckets or other containers could be used as goals, as well.

4) Hot Potato:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Bean bags
 - Speaker for music
- How to play:
 - Have participants sit in a circle.
 - Participants pass the bean bag around the circle as quickly as they can while music is playing.
 - When the music stops, the player holding the bean bag has to sit in the middle of the circle.
 - Continue playing until there is only one person left.
- Variation:
 - For a faster game or for more difficulty, you can add more than one bean bag going in opposite directions around the circle.

5) Obstacle Course:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Bean bags
 - Balls
 - Chalk (if playing outside)
 - Cones
 - Hula hoops
 - Jump ropes
- How to play:
 - Using the materials on hand, set up a series of obstacles for relay races, target practice, soccer ball "croquet," and more.
 - Use your imagination to create new games and levels of difficulty.

6) Four Square:

- Number of participants: Rotating sets of 4
- Materials:
 - Hula hoops, pool noodles, chalk (if playing outside), or tape
 - A bouncy ball or basketball
- How to play:
 - Set up four squares or circles with players in each.
 - If it lands on a line or goes out, the player returns to the waiting line.
 - Teams can form and the losing team rotates out.

7) Dribble Limbo:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - A "limbo pole" like a pool noodle or rope
 - Basketball
- How to play:
 - Have two adults or non-limbo-ers hold the "pole" (noodle or rope).
 - Players must dribble the basketball underneath the "pole" without touching it.
 - After all players have limboed once, lower the "pole" and go again.

- Continue until only one player remains.

8) No-Dribble Tag Basketball

- Number of participants: Two groups of an even number
- Materials:
 - Basketball
 - Standard basketball hoops
- How to play:
 - This game is played with standard basketball hoops... but players are *not* allowed to dribble.
 - This game promotes quick decision-making skills.
 - Players pass the ball by tagging their teammates on the shoulder... and lose control of the ball if a teammate from the other team is able to tap them on the shoulder.
 - The team with the highest score at the end of the designated time or score limit wins!

9) Tug of War:

- Number of participants: Two groups of an even number
- Materials:
 - A long rope
 - Chalk or tape
 - Gloves
- How to play:
 - Tie a large knot or wrap colored tape around the middle point of the rope.
 - Mark two lines on the floor or ground with tape or chalk—one on each team's side.
 - Teams aim to pull the knot or taped middle of the rope across their goal line.
 - Hand protection and supportive footwear are strongly encouraged.

10) Double Dutch Rope:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Two jump ropes
 - Music (*optional*)
- How to play:
 - Two adults or non-jumpers turn the ropes.
 - Jumpers perform tricks while avoiding the turning ropes.
 - Have non-jumpers be judges and assign scores for skills and flair!

11) Pacman Tag:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Electrical/duct tape
- How to play:
 - Create a large maze on the floor using the electrical tape. Make sure all of the pathways connect.
 - One or two players are the "Pac" person/people. Other players avoid being "eaten" (tagged) by the Pac people.
 - If the Pac person tags them, they sit on the line and become an obstacle for other players.
 - The game continues until only one non-Pac person remains.
- Variation:
 - "Eaten" players can gain the power to tag others for more difficulty.
 - Gradually add more and more Pac people.

12) Maze:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Electrical/duct tape
 - Items to be retrieved (e.g., bean bag, hat, ball)
 - Blindfolds (*optional*)
- How to play:
 - Create a large maze on the floor using the electrical tape. Make sure all of the pathways connect.

- Place the item to be retrieved at the end of the maze.
- Time players from each team to see who completes the maze and captures the "treasure" at the end the fastest.

- Variation:

- For more difficulty, players can be asked to crab walk, skip on one foot, or use a seated scooter to navigate the maze.
- Divide players into groups of two. Blindfold one player on each team. Have the non-blindfolded player give verbal instructions to the blindfolded teammate to be able to navigate the maze.

13) Giant Jenga:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - 2x4 boards cut into 48 blocks of 10-12 inches each. (*You can cut the boards yourself or have them cut at your local lumber yard. Try to avoid wood that has large knots or holes. Make sure to sand the edges so everything is smooth and splinter-free.*)
- How to play:
 - Play like regular Jenga—only bigger! Setup 18 levels of 3 blocks each, alternating the direction of each layer.
 - Players take turns carefully removing one block at a time and placing the block on top of the tower.
 - Players can only use one hand to remove blocks and have to remove whichever block they touch first. The other hand cannot be used to try to support the tower.
 - Continue play until the tower falls.
- Variation:
 - Write activities on some of the blocks, such as "do 5 jumping jacks" or "dance for 10 seconds." When someone pulls an activity block, they have to do that activity before play continues to the next person.

14) Hula Hoop Dance-Off:

- Number of participants: Any, plus 3 judges
- Materials:
 - Hula hoops
 - Speaker for music
 - Notepads and pens for judges to keep score
- How to play:
 - Play music and have a dance-off where participants incorporate hula hoops.
 - Judges assign scores based on creativity, coordination, hula hoop use, and any other agreed upon categories.
 - Encourage participants to express themselves through dance.
 - The dancer with the highest total score wins!

15) Keep It Up:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - A bouncy playground ball (for older players)
 - A balloon (for younger players)
- How to play:
 - Have players stand in a circle.
 - Players work together to try to keep the ball(oon) in the air.
 - Each player can touch the ball only once before another player has to keep the ball up.
 - The player closest to the ball(oon) when it hits the ground is out.
 - Play continues until there is only one player remaining.
- Variation:
 - Set a time limit for the round. Any players remaining after time is up have won!

16) Sensory Toy Exploration Station:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Fidget toys
 - Objects of different textures, shapes, materials
 - Objects that make different sounds

- Objects of different colors
- Play-Doh or washable clay
- Bubbles (*if outside*)
- Sandbox or sand table with shovels, buckets (*optional*)

• How to play:

- There are no rules to sensory stations! Set up different buckets or sections to start out.
- Participants explore all of the different items and can sort them, stack them, combine them, or do anything else to experience the different senses.
- Sensory stations stimulate creativity and relaxation and work well for even very small children.
- Note that if you're working with very small children, keep an eye out for what might go in their mouths!

17) Tree Ring Paintings:

- Number of participants: Any
- Materials:
 - Washable paint
 - Paintbrushes
 - Cups with water
 - Wooden discs
- How to play:
 - Players can either choose to create their own scenes, OR you can provide prompts and instructions, (e.g., how to paint a specific animal or snowflakes).
 - Help players understand the basics of color mixing:
 - Red + yellow = orange
 - Red + blue = purple
 - Blue + yellow = green