

# CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Chalk Outline:

Materials: A box of colored chalk

Activity: Let the children draw on the sidewalk or street with chalk. The chalk will wash off in the rain. Let the children make their own designs. They could draw outlines of their bodies as they lie on the ground and then decorate their body shapes.

## Play Dough:

Materials: Saucepan, spoon

Recipe Ingredients: 1 cup flour, 1 cup water, ½ cup salt, 1 tbsp cream of tartar, 1 tbsp cooking oil, a few drops of food colouring

Preparation: Mix together in a pan and cook on high, stirring constantly. Remove from heat when play dough reaches correct consistency. Let cool.

Activity: Encourage the children to be creative.

## Bubbles:

Materials: Liquid soap (i.e. Sunlight), sugar, pipe cleaner

Preparation: To make bubble solution, mix 1 cup water, 1/3 cup liquid soap, and 1 tbsp sugar. Make wand for blowing bubbles by bending end of 3" pipe cleaner back ¼" to form hook. Form loop by bending hook around and attaching it to the middle of the same pipe cleaner. Use the lower end of pipe cleaner for handle.

Activity: Blow bubbles with wand. Slide the hook, making the loop of the wand as large as possible. Does a larger loop make larger bubbles? Shape the pipe cleaner loop into a triangle. Does a triangular-shaped loop make a triangular-shaped bubble? Will an incomplete loop make a bubble? Use other items for a wand. Examples include strainer, wooden bead, straw funnel, and juice can with both ends removed.



# FAMILY GAMES

## Scavenger Hunt

Divide participants into equal teams of 5-10 people, preferably with members of different families on each team. Teams are given a list of items to collect. The first team to collect the items is declared the winner.

Possible items to be collected:

1. a calendar from the previous year
2. a newspaper from a few weeks before
3. a pair of bi-focal glasses
4. a map of Steinbach
5. a map of another province
6. vacuum filter fluff
7. a full-length nylon stocking (not pantyhose)
8. a wedding picture
9. the front cover of last year's telephone book
10. a toothbrush
11. a toy squirt gun
12. a roll of masking tape
13. a lipstick imprint on paper
14. a black sock
15. a toy dump truck
16. comb with some teeth missing
17. a crayon rubbing (on paper) of the inscription of a manhole cover
18. a red ink pen
19. a gold earring
20. a coloured picture of a movie star
21. a white handkerchief
22. a postcard from another country
23. a dandelion
24. a coin issued in the 1950s
25. a garden hand trowel or spade



For variation, points can be attached to the different items, with more points being given for the most difficult-to-find items.

## Spoon Thread

Materials: spoons, light string

Divide the group into teams of 6-7 people, each team in a separate circle. Attach a spoon to a ball of very light string approximately 30 feet long. At a signal, one person on each team begins threading the spoon (with the string) through his clothes from top to bottom, next person threads the spoon/string from bottom to top, next person threads the spoon/string from top to bottom, and so on until all the players on the team have threaded the spoon. Once the whole team is finished, they sit down until the rest of the teams have finished. First team to sit down is the winner.

## Balloon Pass

Materials: 4 long balloons

Divide the group in half and have the groups form a line facing each other. At one end of each line, the player is given a balloon to pass under his chin. At the other end, a balloon is given to the player to pass between his knees. Balloons must reach opposite ends of each line (being passed under the chin and between the knees). The first team to finish is the winner.

## Partner Hunt

Each partner is given a numbered badge upon entering the picnic area. He goes looking for another person wearing a badge with the same number. When numbers are paired, the two go to a designated area to claim a prize.

## Egg Throwing Contest

Have half as many raw eggs as there are contestants. Contestants pair up and stand five feet apart to start. An egg is thrown back and forth between the couple. They take one pace backward after each successful throw. The last couple to have an unbroken egg, wins.

## Object Passing Relays

Many variations can be used:

- 1) Passing an orange held between the chin and the chest
- 2) Tie a necktie on the next person in line, this person must untie it and then tie it on the next person, and so on down the line.
- 3) Passing a feather held under the nose by inhaling.

In all contests of this nature, if the object is dropped, it is picked up and replaced and the contest continues.

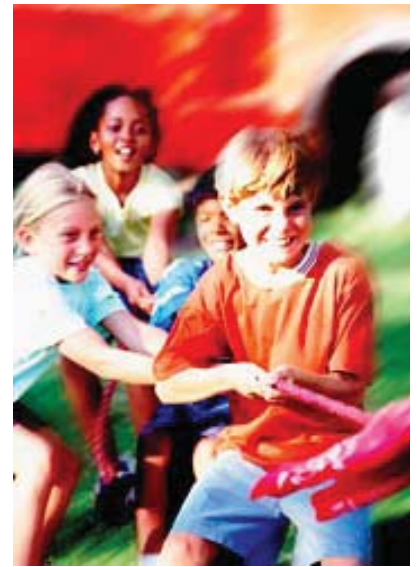


## Tug-o-War

Use 40 feet of 2" rope. Each team should have about 6 contestants to each side of the rope. Tie a handkerchief at the middle point of the rope – this is centred over a line on the ground until the starting signal is given. The winning side is:

- a) the one pulling the other side entirely over the line on the ground; or
- b) the side farther from the line at the end of two minutes.

Try teams of men only, then women only, then mixed teams.



## Jockey Race

For fathers and sons, or mother and daughters. The course should be about 50 yards long. At a signal, the child jumps on his parent's back and is carried piggy-back during the race.

Variations:

- a) Contestants of approximately even weight compete as above except that the "horse" and "jockey" change positions midway;
- b) "Horses" can be blindfolded.

## Siamese Twin Race

Contestants are in pairs. They interlock arms, back-to-back and the race is run in this position.

## Egg Race

Place a hardboiled egg on a small spoon held in the contestant's right hand, arm fully extended, and left arm kept behind the back throughout the race. Have the contestants run, carrying the egg in the spoon, for about 25 yards. If the egg is dropped, it must be picked up with the spoon only. For more fun, have other hold a string or rope about 18-24 inches off the ground, and have the contestants step over it.

## Frisbee Baseball

Equipment: set of softball bases, 1 frisbee

The game is played as in softball, except there is no pitcher. That position remains as an extra infielder. Batter stands adjacent to home plate and uses a cross-chest throw of the frisbee into the playing field. He then runs the bases as in softball. In addition to the regular softball outs, two foul throws is an out. Leaning off the base is also an out.

## Knots

Knots is a game that gets people together by getting them apart. About a dozen players can tie a good one!

To form the knot, stand in a circle, shoulder-to-shoulder, and place your hands in the centre. Everyone grabs a couple of hands. If you ever want to get out of this, make sure that no one holds the hands of the person right next to them. It might take a bit of switching around to get the knot tied right. (If you have too much trouble getting this part together, you might want to quit before you try getting it apart!)

Now comes the true test. You'll probably notice that there are two basic approaches to untangling the knot. The Activists dive right into the problem – under, over, and through their teammates – hoping they'll hit upon the solution. Instead, they might well hit upon one of the Analysts. Firmly rooted, hands locked in a dignified tableau, Analysts carefully survey the situation before instructing each player precisely where to move and in what order.

Since you're all in the same tangle together, you'll have to come to some agreement as to which approach to follow. (Note: pivoting on your handholds without actually breaking your grip will add a lot of grace and eliminate the need for a chiropractor). When at last the knot is unraveled (hooray!), you will find yourselves in one large circle or, occasionally, two interconnected ones (amazing!).

Every once in awhile, an Analyst will discover the one tangle that prevents the knot from resolving itself. At this point, no other remedy being possible, an Activist can administer emergency "knot-aid" (a momentary break in hands) so that you can get on with the game.



## Hug Tag

This variation on classical tag is a perfect example of how you can turn an old game into a new one. Play by whatever rules you're used to, but with one major exception – the only time a player is safe is when he's hugging another player. (No fair for adults to carry small children around under their arms!) After playing for awhile, make the game more communal – rule that only three people hugging are safe. Then try four, five, or everyone!

## Fox and Squirrel

You'll need three balls. Two of them should be similar for the foxes, and the other perhaps smaller and distinctly different for the squirrel. The object of the game is for the foxes to catch the squirrel by tagging whoever is holding the squirrel ball with one (or both) of the fox balls. If two against one seems unfair, just wait. You'll find out how foxy squirrels can be!

Everyone stands in a circle and begins passing the fox balls from player to player. With a bit of practice, you should be able to get them all moving at top speed. Try out a few sudden sly reversals as well.

Now here's the tricky squirrel bit. We all know that foxes are quick, but squirrels are slick and able to leap too. That means you can only pass the fox balls to the player next to you, but you can throw the squirrel ball across the circle. To keep everyone alert, call out "Fox" or "Squirrel" each time you pass one of the balls.

While there may be a tendency, the squirrel isn't always the favoured underdog. You might detect the fox sympathizers by noticing who tosses the squirrel your way just as the two foxes are converging on you!

## Water Slide

Equipment: large plastic sheet (an inexpensive dropcloth), stones, scrap board or any other weight, hose or lawn sprinkler.

Procedure: Do not build a water slide on a hard, protruding surface. Grassy ground is soft and safe for active play. Spread the plastic sheet over the grass smoothly. Hold the top end of the plastic down with any weight, such as big stones or a scrap (splinter-free!) piece of wood. Place a lawn sprinkler along the side of the plastic sheet and turn on the water so the spray falls on the plastic. When the plastic is completely wet, you are ready to start your slide. Keep the sprinkler on for as long as you play.

**WARNING:** Every half hour, move the plastic sheet to an alternate location so the grass underneath will not get cooked by the sun.



# ADULT GAMES

## Who Am I?

Equipment: Tags with names of famous personalities, to pin on players' backs.

Pin a tag on each player's back (done by one who is not participating). Each player must figure out "who he/she is" by asking clues from other players.

## Balloon Race

Contestants tap a balloon through the air to a finish line. If the balloon touches the ground that contestant is disqualified.

## Balloon Bust

Tie an inflated balloon close to the waist of each contestant (on back). Give him/her a tightly rolled up newspaper, held with tape. Spectators form a large circle and at a given signal contestants try to protect their own balloon while trying to break other players' balloons. Contestants drop out as their balloons are broken. The winner is the last person to still have a balloon on his back.

## Cracker Whistle

Contestants are given three soda crackers to be eaten in any way they desire. The first to whistle after eating the crackers is the winner.

Variation: Single portion sized boxes of any breakfast cereal, unopened. At a signal, the contestants open the boxes and consume the contents, then try to whistle.

## Dance Contests

Prizes to the best waltz, jitterbug, rumba, couples, etc.



# GAMES AND THEME IDEAS

Some theme ideas/special activities that you may consider:

- Gong Show / Talent Show
- Car / Bicycle Parade
- Volleyball Tournament
- Pet Show
- Western Evening
- Scavenger Hunt / Treasure Hunt
- Hawaiian Evening
- Pink Flamingo Evening
- Bubble Blowing Contest
- Big Toe Decorating Contest
- Newspaper Fashion Show
- Puppet Show
- 50's / 60's / 70's Days
- Dance Contest
- Magic Trick Contest
- Hopscotch / Jump Rope Tournament
- Croquet Tournament
- Colour Carnival

