

Playdate Game Ideas

Balloons

Pass the Balloon This game is similar to “Hot Potato”. Pass the balloon to your partner(s) until the music stops. Fun to use water balloons on summer days!

Air Balloon The objective of this game is to keep the balloon in the air and off the ground. You can use your hands, noodle sticks (made of Nerf material), blankets, etc.

Balloon Chase The goal is to try and catch the person who has the balloon. When you catch that person, you then gain possession of the balloon and the other people chase you to try to take away the balloon.

Hide and Seek with Balloons Similar to “Egg Hunt”. One child hides various balloons (or just one balloon) around the house and the seeker has to find the balloon. There can even be one special color balloon that differs from all the other balloons to make the game more exciting. Another idea is to have a small treasure (i.e. jewel, marble, jellybean, glitter) inside each balloon and, once all balloons have been found, the child can pop the balloon to get the treasure.

Balloon Toss Two children stand several feet apart facing each other. One child says "ready, set, go" and throws the balloon to the other child. If the child receiving the balloon catches the balloon successfully, they can each take one step back. Can use water balloons in the summer.

Balloon Art Decorate or draw on a balloon. Some ideas are to draw a face on a balloon and then add yarn for hair, or use colored shaving cream to paint or stickers to decorate a balloon.

Pin the ___ on the Balloon Tape a balloon securely to the wall about eye level to the child. While wearing a blindfold (optional), have the child spin around ten times and then orient him or herself so that they can pin the item (i.e. sticker) on the balloon.

Target Practice Throw a water balloon at a target and see if you can hit the target. Another idea is to spray balloons with a squirt gun.

Water Balloon Yo-Yo Fill up a water balloon and tie the end securely. Attach a thin, sturdy string about two feet long onto the knot of the balloon.

Playdate Game Ideas

Bicycles

Stop and Go Similar to “Red Light/Green Light”, but on bikes. Use red and green colored signs to signal to the bicyclists when to stop and when to go.

Maze Use sidewalk chalk to map out/draw a maze to be followed on a bike.

Wash It Set up a car/bike wash. The child can wash their bike with friends. Materials needed are soap, a garden hose, washcloths, a spray bottle, and rags/sponges.

Mechanic Use tools to pretend to fix a bike. You can turn the bike upside-down to fix peddles, chains, etc. Make sure that child is supervised and that the tools are safe and have no sharp edges.

Fireman Use the bike to go from a fire station to the fire. Peer can ride on the back, with the hose.

Follow the Leader Play “Follow the Leader” on bikes!

Policeman Transport peer to the jail on a bike, chase them, ride to the jail house and release them, pull peers over and give out tickets.

Street Sweeper Attach a broom to the side of the bike and ride along the sidewalk.

Bike Parade Decorate your bike (e.g., using streamers, silly string, cardboard) and have a parade around the neighborhood.

Playdate Game Ideas

Bowling

Bowling Pin Factory Children can make bowling pins together as an activity during a playdate. Fill empty water bottles (small or large) with food coloring, water, and if desired, glitter. Use masking or electrical tape to tape around the cap if concerned about water leaking.

Bowling Use sidewalk chalk to designate boundaries if playing outside. For example, make x's on ground to outline where to set up pins, and make a circle to designate where the bowler, ball retriever, and pin setter all stand. If playing with a group of children (e.g., at school) then may have to make outlines for where they stand while waiting and cheering, etc. Can have children keep score using chalk, wipe board, or pen and paper.

Variations on Bowling Kick bowling, tunnel bowling (e.g., roll ball through tunnel or have peer(s) stand with legs open for bowler to roll ball through), backwards (through the legs) bowling, bounce bowling, and table bowling (e.g. roll ball across picnic table and knock pins off into bucket of water). For table bowling, if playing outside, take the caps off of one or more bottles so that water spills. If playing with colored water, certain colors can be worth a certain number of points or a prize.

Interactive Strategies (this is only a sample)

- Peer 1 waits for Peer 2 to make eye contact and then says "Ready, set, go!" (addresses referencing, giving and receiving information),
- Peer 1 waits for Peer 2 to make eye contact and then says "Ready...", Peer 2 says "...set...", Peer 1 says "...go!" (addresses referencing, giving and receiving information, and coordinating actions),
- Peer 1 cheers for Peer 2 when roll is complete and gives "high five" to Peer 2 (addresses sharing enjoyment, encouraging sportsmanship, commenting),
- Peer 1 gives treat/prize to Peer 2 (addresses handing and receiving items).

Playdate Game Ideas

Chalk

Target Games with Sidewalk Chalk Children can draw targets on the ground with chalk and then throw water balloons at the targets to erase them. Children can draw whatever is interesting or motivating for them (numbers, letters, animals or even just blocks of color). Kids can then take turns or give each other directions to erase certain targets with their water balloons or cups of water (similar to King Game).

Hopscotch Draw your own hopscotch courts. They can be as simple or as complicated as you want!

Tic-Tac-Toe Can vary from standard x's and o's by drawing happy faces, stars or hearts instead.

Make Your Own Maze Don't forget to include dead ends, a path to a treasure (with real prizes!) or fake paths that go to the dragon's lair!! (If somebody ends up in the dragon's lair, they'll probably need a friend to come save them) Paths can go to Batman's Batcave or the Joker's Hideaway!

Drawing Together Kids can work together on a joint picture, taking turns to add a new feature to the picture each time. For example, one child makes the circle for a face, the other child then adds the eyes, and so on and so forth... One child can tell the other what to draw ("Draw a house! Make the roof pink! Give it a red door!")

Draw Each Other One child lies on the ground while the other outlines their body with chalk. They can work together to fill in the details like drawing on the hair and clothes. Can add things to the picture like pets, trees, grass or the sun. Don't forget to practice writing your name above your picture!

Obstacle Courses and Roads Kids can use chalk to delineate an obstacle course. Follow arrows or make a path from task to task, with a clear start and finish line. Kids can go through the course together or make it a relay. Make sure to cheer for your friend when it's their turn! Kids can draw a road on which to ride bikes or tricycles. Don't forget fun features like stop lights/signs, crosswalks, intersections, the post office, the grocery store, school or the firehouse. Once these are drawn, children can get involved with fun imaginary play! ("School is over, so it's time to go home for lunch!" Kids then get on the "bus" (tricycle) and go home. . .)

Playdate Game Ideas

Chalk

Firefighter Children can draw red or orange flames on the ground then run around putting out fires with squirt guns or water balloons.

Don't Touch The Ground! Imagine that the big volcano erupted while you were in school and now there is a dangerous lava river between your house and school! The only way to get home is to jump from one little island to the next until you reach "safe."

Draw two lines far apart from one another. Between these lines draw circles that make a path from one side to the other. Kids jump from one circle to the next to reach the other side.

The game can get harder by erasing islands with water or "HOT LAVA!!" ("Oh, no!! The volcano erupted and the lava swallowed another island!! Now how are you going to get across???"). Some islands can fit two people (to encourage teamwork) or maybe just one foot! Kids can also make their own path from one side to the next by drawing their own islands.

Playdate Game Ideas

Dress Up

Fashion Show Build a runway out of carpet squares, floor puzzle pieces, etc. You can visually structure the activity so that all of the dress up clothes are lined up and oriented for the child. Also, you can have an "all done" bin for clothes that have already been worn. If you have access to a digital camera, you can take pictures of the "models." The children can take turns being models or can both be models at the same time. Don't forget the fun music!

Fashion Designer Can be done in conjunction with fashion show. One child could be the "fashion designer" and one child could be the "model." The fashion designer would create the outfit that the model would wear for the fashion show from the available dress up clothes.

Clothing Store The customer would have to ask for specific items of clothing from the cashier. You could make this easier or more complicated depending on the level of the children who are participating.

Rock Star The "rock star" can dress up and sing different songs using a pretend microphone and standing on a table (stage). The other child can be in the audience and cheer. The children can take turns being the rock star.

Dress Up Races Can give each child a pile of clothing and see who can get all of the articles of clothing on (or off) the fastest.

Musical Dress Up Similar to "Hot Potato", pass a bag of clothes around the circle as the music is playing. When the music stops, whoever holding the bag needs to take a clothing item from the bag and wear it. The bag is circulated again once the music starts. The game ends when the bag is empty. Whoever has the least amount of clothing on (or the most), wins.

Playdate Game Ideas

King Games

These are variations of the “Simon Says” game without all of the rules. One peer should be designated “King” and wear a cool crown, cape, and/or hold a special wand. Children should take turns assuming the role of King.

Silent King Game Especially ideal for children with only receptive language skills, the King (child wearing a crown) can first point at another person and then point to the location of where they want that person to go (e.g. King points peer to red square and peer must go and stand in the red square).

For children with higher receptive language, two-step receptive processing can be used (e.g. King says, "Go to the yellow star" vs. "green star" vs. "yellow moon").

Around the House The King says, "Go to kitchen" (or some other room in the house).

Musical King Game The King has a tape player and turns on the music to make everyone dance.

Playdate Game Ideas

Music and Dance

Musical Chairs Can do with chairs, mats, or large pillows.

Bump Drop to the floor when the music stops and shout “Bump!”

Freeze Dance Freeze in a pose when the music stops.

Bean Bag Dance Balance a bean bag on your head, hands, or feet while you dance.

Silliest Dancer Competition

Dance Routine The children create a new dance routine together or learn a dance routine from a DVD (i.e. Wiggles, Barney).

Practice Gymnastics to Music

Pillow Case Dance Dancing or jumping in pillow cases.

Hula Hoop Dance/Parade Two children, each using a hula hoop, try to dance and coordinate actions.

Scarf Dancing Can use streamers too.

Rock Star/Karaoke

Paz's Jump and Dance Music Mat This mat makes rhythmic music by jumping or dancing on it.

Dance Board Game Develop a board game where the children's favorite dance moves are depicted on cards and there is a dance party square where everyone dances.

Playdate Game Ideas

Shaving Cream

Washing Windows Put shaving cream in a bucket or spray directly onto window. Use hands or sponges to wipe around. Scrape off with a squeegee.

Shaving Cream Painting Put shaving cream into bowls. Add different color paints to each. Can use hands, brushes, stamps, or various tools to paint onto paper. Can also leave out the colored paints and paint plain shaving cream onto black paper.

Footprints Lay out a long piece of butcher paper. Add colors to shaving cream. Step into shaving cream and walk, jump, skate down paper to leave different types of tracks.

Marbled Paper Art Project Drip several dots of different colored food coloring onto a plate of shaving cream. Gently press a white piece of paper on top of the colored shaving cream. Lift the paper off of the shaving cream, then wipe off all cream from the paper. You should be left with marbled colored paper. Let dry to make stationery.

Playdate Game Ideas

Target Games

Tic-Tac-Toe Draw a grid with sidewalk chalk and use two different colored groups of bean bags. The children take turns trying to toss their own bean bags in a row on the grid. Can also substitute bean bags for water balloons.

Bull's Eye Target Draw a bull's eye (a ring of concentric circles) with sidewalk chalk. Use bean bags to throw at target. Child wins a prize associated with where their bean bag lands on the target.

Bozo Buckets Line up three medium-sized buckets or containers filled with prizes. Just like at a carnival, the children take turns throwing a ball into a bucket from several feet away. They get a prize from whichever container their ball lands in. If weather permits, you can play this outside and fill buckets with water, and place prizes in air-tight containers (i.e. plastic Easter eggs).

Water Pistols Line up several small-mouthed bottles (containers that look like beer or Sobe drink bottles). Make sure that the bottles are on a stable surface. Place a ping pong ball onto the opening of each bottle. Use water guns to shoot the ping pong balls off of each bottle.

Sticky Crawlies Throw sticky rubbery toys at smooth surfaces like refrigerators or mirrors to see whose crawly toy travels fastest or stays on the surface longest.

Foam Rockets Kids can shoot handheld foam rockets at one another. Establish rules beforehand (i.e. no shooting rockets at the face). Each child builds their own fortress to help shield against incoming rockets.

Bean Bag Factory Bags for target games can be made from socks filled with sand, beans, or rice. You can dip bags into wet paint or water, and then throw at targets, but make sure to use only sand-filled bags for wet activities as you don't want your home-made bags to mold or sprout.

Playdate Game Ideas

Water

Water Balloon Battleship Fill up the water balloons together, or if running low on time, have water balloons filled up beforehand. Next, draw a big boat with sidewalk chalk. Lastly, take turns throwing water balloons at the boat until the chalk image is erased (or you run out of water balloons).

Firefighter Play firefighter outside with REAL water! If you have access to a hose, run around spraying things with it. If not, use spray bottles or watering cans to put out the fires.

Messy Pool Art Project Instead of art at a table (B.O.R.I.N.G.) why not have art in the wading pool!? Get those washable bath paints, and get both kids in the pool painting the sides.

Foot Splash Red Light/Green Light Play red light/green light as you would usually. When you get to the end, you get to splash your feet in a tub of water.

Stone Soup Use a large bucket or tub. Place it in the yard and allow the children to fill it with anything they find. Use long sticks to stir.