

100+ Fun Party Games



**All the Party Games You'll Ever Need for Kids 2-12
Years Old**

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Introduction

Parties are great for kids. Party games are even better.

But what games can you play with kids that are two years old? How about kids who are twelve?

This book will tell you. And it will also tell you what games are great for every age in between.

Chapter 1 :

Perfect Party Games for Ages 2 & 3

(10)

Games for children this age should be fast paced and exciting enough to hold the children's attention at all times. Some of these games are common while others aren't so common.

One or more adults should closely supervise all of these games.

Duck Duck Goose

This is the game we all recognize.

To play children sit around in a circle while one child, known as the Fox walks around the outside of the circle. The Fox gently pats the head of each child who is sitting and says "duck."

When the Fox decides it's time, the Fox pats a head and calls out "goose!" The Goose has to then get-up and chase the Fox around the circle. If the Goose catches the Fox then the Fox must be the Fox for the next turn. However, if the Fox is able to run around the outside of the circle and make it back to where the Goose was sitting before, then the Goose becomes the Fox for the next turn.

Pin the Tail on the Donkey

This is another game we all recognize. Often stores sell kits for this game.

To play you need a large donkey with a removable tail for each player, a wall, tape and a blindfold.

Tape the donkey to a wall. Then place tape on each tail so it can be stuck to the donkey.

One at a time the children will have the blindfold put on them. (At this age there's no need to spin them around.) With the blindfold on, each child tries to stick the tail where it belongs on the donkey. The child who places the tail the closest wins the game.

Find the Treasure

This game should always be played at the beginning of the party (unless you Decorate a Bag first) so the children don't accidentally find any treasure before it's time.

To play you'll need lunch bags, and bunches of candy and little toys such as spider rings and kazoos. Remember these are little children so don't buy anything that could be a choking hazard!

Place all the prizes (the treasure) in the party room(s). Then when the children arrive, give each of them a bag to collect their treasure. Don't hide the treasure in difficult places. Again, these are very small children.

Give the children an appropriate amount of time to collect as much treasure as they possibly can.

Decorate the Bag

This game builds off the Find the Treasure game.

Before playing Find the Treasure, give each child a paper bag and let the child decorate and color the bag with crayons. Once the bag is decorated then the treasure hunt can begin.

Dancing Lessons

For this game you'll need space for the kids to move and music.

Have all the children stand in a room and choose one child at a time to be the dance teacher. When the music starts the dance teacher should begin doing one type of dance such as hopping, wiggling legs, or shaking hips. Then all the other students must mimic that dance.

After a few minutes the dance teacher should change to another child until all the children have had a chance to be the teacher.

Laughing Out Loud

This game only requires a handkerchief and enough space for all the players to sit around in a circle.

All the children sit around in a circle perfectly still. When the handkerchief is thrown into the air (by an adult or older child) the kids in the circle move, laugh, and yell all they want. However, once the handkerchief hits the ground all the children must be quiet and still again. Anyone who isn't has to leave the circle.

Copy Cat for Kids

For this game you'll need space for the kids to sit in a circle.

All the kids sit around in a circle. The first player starts by doing one movement such as touching her cheek. Then the next player must touch his cheek and then add his own movement. Each of the players continues to copy what the players did before and then they add one of their own.

The players see how long they can go before someone makes a mistake. The ultimate goal is to make all the way around the circle.

For larger parties, you'll want to try to keep the circles to about four or five kids.

Digging for Dinosaurs

For this game you'll need a large sandbox (or many little boxes of sand) and small plastic dinosaurs. You'll also need sand shovels, spoons, strainers, and any other utensils you want the children to use to dig in sand.

Before the party bury the toy dinosaurs in the sandbox. Then during the party give the kids the tools and let them dig through the sand to find the dinosaurs. Any dinosaurs they find they can keep.

You will want to keep a few dinosaurs out and not bury them so any children who might not find dinosaurs while they were digging will still get one.

Puzzle Put Together

For this game you'll need a couple nine piece puzzles. For larger parties you'll need more puzzles. Take the entire number of children and divide it by four and that's how many puzzles you'll need.

Hide the nine pieces of the puzzle in a specific area. Remember these are young children so the pieces should be hid where they'll be easily found.

Divide the kids into groups of four and tell them what area they'll have to search in to find their puzzle pieces. Then let the kids look for their pieces. As they find them they can put their puzzles together.

Cartoon Character Race

For this game you'll need to collect pictures of different cartoon characters such as Sponge Bob Squarepants, Dora the Explorer, and the Backyardigans. You can find the characters in magazines or you can cut out other characters form the Sunday comics.

Once you have enough characters for each child that'll be at the party, make copy so that you have an original for each child and a copy for you.

Tape the characters to index cards so they'll be sturdier.

Then during the party give each child one of the characters. Then put the copies all into a bag.

Have all the children line-up on one line and make a finish line about 20 feet away.

Pull a character out of the bag and whoever s holding that character should move one step toward the finish line. Put the character you picked back into the bag and pick another character.

When a child crosses the finish line that child wins.

Chapter 2 –

Perfect Party Games for Ages 4 – 7

(16)

Games for children this age should be fast paced and exciting enough to hold the children's attention at all times. These children are a little bit older so the games can be slightly more complicated.

However, one or more adults should closely supervise all of these games as well.

Snatch

For this game you'll need about six or eight small objects.

Have all the kids sit around a table and place the small items in the center of the table. Then have one of the kids stand-up, turn his back on the other kids, and close his eyes. Point at one of the kids sitting around the table. That kid will take one of the items from the center of the table and place it in his lap.

Then the child who's standing will turn back around and try to guess what item was taken and who took the item. Give the child a few tries. Then the child who took the item will be the one to stand-up and guess which item was snatched and who snatched it.

Copy Cat

For this game you'll need space for the kids to sit in a circle.

All the kids sit around in a circle. The first player starts by doing one movement such as touching her cheek. Then the next player must touch his cheek and then add his own

movement. Each of the players continues to copy what the players did before and then they add one of their own.

Once a player can't mimic the moves correctly, that player is out.

For larger parties, you'll want to try to keep the circles to about five or six kids.

Hot Potato

This is another classic game you probably recognize but it's just as fun as ever. All that's needed is a ball that is soft so it won't hurt any of the children.

Have the kids sit in a circle with their legs crossed. Then have them toss the ball, which is the hot potato, to each other. Explain to the children that they want to throw the ball as quickly as possible because if they're holding the ball when the timer goes off then they will be out of the game.

Set a timer for varying amounts ranging from 20 – 40 seconds. When the timer goes off whoever is holding the ball is out.

The game continues until only one child is left.

Red Light, Green Light

There is nothing needed to play this game except space.

You'll need two lines (either chalk lines on pavement or jump ropes in the grass will work) that are about thirty feet apart.

All the children except one will stand with their toes on one line. The other child will be the police officer and stand on the other line.

The police officer will turn his back on the other children and yell "green light." This is the cue for the other children to begin to moving toward the line. After a short amount of time the police officer will yell "red light." This is the cue for the other children to stop abruptly. Directly after yelling, the police officer should whirl around and any children who haven't stopped will be pointed out by the police officer and sent back to the beginning.

Then the police officer will turn back around and the process will continue until one of the children reaches the finish line.

Musical Chairs

This is another game most of us are familiar with. What you need is enough chairs for every kid at the party minus one. So if there are ten kids at the party you'll need nine chairs.

The chairs should be placed in a circle or with their backs to each other so they form two rows of seats.

Then, while you play music the children walk around the chairs.

When the music stops the kids must find a chair and then sit in it. The child who is left standing is out of the game.

Another chair is removed and the entire process is repeated until only one child is left sitting in one chair. That child is the winner.

Seven Up

For this game you'll need quite a few kids at the party. You'll need seven to be the ones who stand up and you'll need at least 7-10 other kids who remain sitting at the table.

So, seven kids stand-up and the rest of the kids remain sitting. The kids who are sitting put their heads down, they close their eyes, and they put their thumb up. To get them to do this you say, "Heads down, thumbs up."

Then each of the five kids who are standing must go to one of the other kids and push the thumb down.

When five thumbs have been pressed down you say, "Heads up, seven up."

Then each of the kids who had their thumb pressed down must try to guess which kid did it. If they guess correctly then those kids get to be the ones standing. If they don't guess right then the player who pressed the thumb gets to be one of the seven for another turn.

Note: For slightly smaller parties you could play five up or even three up.

Use Your Sense

For this game you will need a variety of items and something to put them in.

What you're going to do is take different items and place them in paper bags, plastic baggies, plastic bowls, or a combination of the three. Then you'll place one interesting item in each that you think will be fun for a child to try to identify without using her eyes.

For example, you might want to use an orange slice because that will be fun to smell and to touch.

Then during the party let the children take turns trying to identify each of the items without looking at them. The child must guess by using all the sense EXCEPT sight.

Handy Candy

For this game you'll need a bowl of small candy such as jelly beans, M&Ms, or Reeses Pieces.

Set the bowl of candy in the center of the party table. Then tell one of the children to grab some candy. After the child grabs a handful, tell him that he has to guess how many pieces of candy he just grabbed.

If he can guess the number then he can eat the candy. Otherwise, he'll set the candy to the side. Then the next child will have to decide how many pieces she wants to grab. If she grabs just a couple then she'll know the number and get to eat the candy.

This game causes children to make a fun decision if they want to be safe and assure themselves of candy or if they want to gamble for a greater amount of candy.

Simon Says

Here's another familiar game. There is nothing special required to play it.

All the children stand in a line. One of the children stands facing the other children. This child will be the leader for the first game of Simon Says.

The leader begins to give the children directions about what they should do. If Simon says something then the children all need to do it.

For example, if the player says "Simon says hop up and down" then all the children should hop up and down. But if the player just says, "hop up and down" then none of the

children should do it because Simon didn't say. Any child who performs an action without Simon saying out do it is out of the game.

The game continues until there is just one player left. You may need to put a time limit on the game and award more than one winner if some of the kids are really good at the game.

Balloon Burst

For this game you'll need balloons, inexpensive magnifying glasses, and small toys or candy to place in the balloons. You may also want to buy a slightly larger prize for the winner of this game.

Before the party, place one or more of the small items or candy into the balloons. Then blow-up the balloons.

Before you play the game you'll want to either tie or tape each balloon to a fence or wall outside.

You will need to have one balloon and one magnifying glass for each child and the party has to be on a sunny day.

Have the children hold their magnifying glass up to their balloon so that the sunlight is concentrated on one spot in the balloon. Eventually the balloon will pop.

Each of the children gets to keep the things in the balloon they popped and the first child to pop a balloon wins the game. However, the game continues until all balloons have been popped.

Huckle Buckle Bean Stock

For this game you'll need an item such as a small bell. It needs to be something that's small enough to hide easily but not so small that it will be overly difficult to find.

All the children except one will go into another room. The child who stayed will hide the item somewhere in the room. Usually the one rule the hider has to follow is that the item must be able to be seen without anything being moved. In other words, the item can't be completely hidden from view.

Once the item is hidden the other children come back into the room and look for it. The child who finds the item yells, "Huckle Buckle Bean Stock!" Then that child will hide the item for the next round.

Duck Duck Gray Duck

This game is a twist on the Duck Duck Goose game for the 2-3 year olds.

Instead of saying “Goose” to choose the player the child, known as the Fox, will say “Gray Duck.” Also, instead of saying “Duck” as the child goes around the circle, the child will put a variety of adjectives before “Duck” such as “Fast Duck” and “Purple Duck”.

When the Fox says “Gray Duck” the Fox will then try to run around the circle and get back in the place where the Gray Duck was sitting. Meanwhile, the Gray Duck will get up and try to catch the Fox.

If the Gray Duck doesn’t catch the Fox then the Gray Duck becomes the Fox. If the Fox is caught then he remains the Fox for another turn.

Shark

For this game you’ll need two ropes (for lines) or two chalk lines on pavement. You’ll also need plenty of space.

The two lines should be at least twenty to twenty-five feet apart. This area is the water.

To play one child will begin as the shark. All the other children are the fish. The children have to try to cross the water from one line to the other line. If the Shark catches them then they become part of the shark.

Then the fish try to cross the water again and the Shark, with all the kids holding hands, must try to catch more fish.

The game is over when only one fish remains. That fish then becomes the Shark.

Dance Leader

For this game you’ll need space and music.

Explain to the kids that one of them will leave the room. Then one of the other children will be picked to the Dance Leader. That child will begin dancing by shaking a leg or doing some other move. Then all the other kids will mimic the move.

Then the Dance Leader will switch to another slightly different move and all the other kids will follow the lead.

The child that left the room will be watching the dancing and that child will have to guess who the Dance Leader is by trying to see who changes the move first.

Give a Gift

For this game you'll need a bunch of little gifts and a slightly more expensive gift.

Before the party wrap the best gift in golden paper to make it look special. Take this gift and place it in a larger box along with one of the other smaller gifts. Then repeat the process until all the gifts are wrapped.

During the party have all the kids sit around a table. Play music and tell kids to pass the gift around until the music stops. Don't tell them there are more gifts inside, let that be a secret.

When the music stops the kid holding the package will open it and keep the toy that's inside. Then the other unwrapped gift gets passed around by all the kids who haven't opened a present yet.

The game keeps going until all the gifts – including the last one – have been opened.

You're an Animal

For this game you'll need index cards and perhaps pictures of animals.

Before the party either write the name of an animal on an index card or cut out pictures of animals and tape each one to an index card. You must have enough index cards for each kid to get at least one.

During the party give out the index cards and let the kids take turns pretending to be that animal. The other kids have to guess what animal the kid is acting like.

Chapter 3 –

Perfect Party Games for Ages 7 - 9 (24)

For this age group the games can get even more complicated. Obviously the games still need to be supervised but actual adult involvement can be kept to a minimum.

Hot Potato with Water Balloons

This is a variation on the 2-3 year olds Hot Potato game.

Instead of using a ball you'll use a water balloon. Then the kids will sit in a circle and treat the water balloon as the hot potato. The child left holding the balloon will be removed from the game and if the balloon breaks the person last to touch the balloon will be removed from the game.

The game continues until one child is left.

Suitcase Relay Race

For this game you'll need two suitcases filled with an equal amount of crazy clothes. These clothes need to be large enough for the kids to put them on over their regular clothing.

You'll also need two lines that are about twenty feet apart.

Divide the kids into two teams. Then the first kid on each team will begin at the same line. These two kids will run with the full suitcases to the other line. They'll open their suitcase. Put on all the clothes inside and then they'll run back to the starting line.

Then they'll take off all their clothes and put them back into the suitcases. The next kid in line will then repeat the process until the last kids get back to the start line, take off all the clothes, put them in the suitcase, and close the suitcase.

The first team to finish is the winner.

Treasure Hunt

For this game you'll need index cards and two or more prizes. (You'll need a prize for each group of kids.) And the prize should be enough for each member of the team.

Before the party hide the prize somewhere. Then write clues for directions on each of the index cards to lead them to the prize. Each index card should include one more step for how to find the prize.

For example, you might hide a present in the bathtub. So, you'll want your last index card to say "rub-a-dub-dub." Then you'll place that card in the refrigerator and write "brrrrrr" on another card. That way they'll find the last card. Then you'll place the "brrrrrr" card behind a house plant and write "Am I behind a jungle?" on another card. Keep repeating the process until you have five or six cards.

Then begin the game by giving one clue card and letting the kids search for their treasure. Kids should be divided into groups of about three or four.

The first team to find their prize wins but allow time for all the kids to find their treasure.

Twenty Questions

For this you'll just need index cards.

Before the party on each index card write the name of a place or a character. Then put all the cards into a bucket or a bag.

During the party have all the kids sit around and let them take turns picking a card. Then the other kids take turns asking questions to try to find out what place or character is on the card. With each turn a kid can ask one question and then take one guess.

Blind Man's Bluff

This is another game that might be familiar.

You don't need anything for the game except space.

One player is chosen to be the Blind Man and is blindfolded. The rest of the kids circle around that kid and join hands. Then they begin to move around him. When the Blind Man claps three times the kids stop. The Blind Man points at a spot in the circle and tries to guess who that person is.

If the guess is correct then the chosen kid becomes the Blind Man., If not, the chosen person steps into the circle. The Blind Man tries to touch the chosen kid and the chosen kid tries avoid him.

Once the chosen kid is caught the Blind Man can touch the chosen player's face, hair, and other features to guess who it is. Once the Blind Man guesses correctly, he joins the circle and the chosen player becomes the Blind Man.

Penny Toss

For this game you'll need a cup with ten pennies for each kid who'll be at the party. Then you'll need extra pennies to spread on the floor.

At the party give each kid a cup with the ten pennies. Then spread about twenty other pennies on the floor next to a wall.

The players take turns tossing a penny against the wall and trying to get their penny to bounce off the wall and hit one or more other pennies. The player gets to keep their penny and any other pennies their penny hit. However, if the penny didn't hit any other pennies then that penny stays on the floor.

The game ends when all the pennies are either gone from the floor or gone from the cups.

Either let the kids keep the pennies or declare the kid with the most pennies the winner and give her a prize.

Airplane Pilot

This game is a spin off of Pin the Tale on the Donkey.

You'll need a small paper airplane for each kid and a large map (you can hand draw it) of your country. Mark your location on the map. You'll also need some obstacles (anything from your home is fine – pillows, pots and pans, etc.)

Set-up an obstacle course in a room that kids will have to walk around or over. Then place the map on a wall.

At the party give each player an airplane. Explain to them that they're taking off from your location as marked on the map. Their goal is to go through the obstacle course while blind folded and then stick their airplane on the map the farthest from the take off spot without putting the airplane in the ocean.

Players who run into an obstacle are considered to have crash landed and they are out of the game. Players who stick their airplane on an ocean are out of the game.

The player who places the airplane farthest from the home location is the winner.

Alphabet Copy Cat

For this game you don't need anything special.

The kids sit around a table or in a circle. The first kid will begin by saying a word that begins with the letter "a". Then the next kid will say the first word and then add a word that begins with "b". Then the next kid will say the first two words and add a "c" word. This continues until a kid is unable to say all the words. When this happens that kid is out of the game and the game starts over.

The game ends when only one player is left.

Hands – Up Hands – Down

For this game you need one coin and a pen and paper to keep track of the score.

Divide the kids at the party into two teams. Then the teams sit on opposite sides of the table.

One team starts out by passing the coin to each other under the table. After several seconds the leader of the other team yells, "Hands-up!" At this point the team with the coin must hold their hands above the table. They should all be making fists with their knuckles pointing down.

Then the leader of the other team yells, "Hands down!" Every member on the team with the coin slams their hands down on the table. The other team tries to hear who has the coin.

Then the other team will discuss and try to choose players on the other team who don't have the coin. Each member of the team who doesn't have a coin and is selected earns the guessing team a point.

Ideally the guessing team wants to leave the person with the coin until last so they can get as many points as possible.

The first team to fifty points wins.

Tug of War

This is the classic game that most of us will recognize.

All you need is a rope.

Draw a line in the center or use another rope for a line and place the center of the Tug of War rope in the line. Then divide the kids into two equal teams. When a signal is given, each team will pull on one end of the rope and try to get the other team to cross over the center line.

Ha Ha

Nothing is needed for this game.

The kids sit around in a circle and one player starts by saying, "Ha." Then the next player says, "Ha, ha." The following says, "Ha, ha, ha." And so on.

The point of the game is the no one can smile or laugh. If they do, they're out of the game. Once out of the game that player can move around the circle at will and try to make people laugh by making funny faces and doing funny things. However, there is no speaking or touching allowed.

The last player left, the one who doesn't laugh, is the winner.

Slap, Slap, Clap, Clap, Snap, Snap

For this game nothing special is needed.

All the kids sit around in a circle. A chosen player picks a category like "cartoon characters" or "colors." Then that player begins the rhythm that all the other players must follow.

Here's the rhythm: slap the legs twice, clap twice, snap the left fingers, snap the right fingers and then repeat.

While the players are all taking part in the rhythm, each player must name an item from the chosen category. Any player who isn't able to name an item while staying in rhythm is out of the game.

Each time a player is removed, a new round begins with a new category.

The last player left is the winner.

The Right Price

For this game you'll need to buy several items. The items should vary in price. Some examples of items might be a pack of gum, a candy bar, a bar of soap, and a toy magnifying glass.

You'll also need pieces of paper and pens or pencils. A basket with a few inexpensive gifts in it will also be needed.

Write the prices of all the articles on a sheet of paper and keep these hidden. The prices will be revealed at the end of the game.

Each child will get a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Then the kids will look at each item and secretly write down what they believe to be the cost of item.

Once all the kids have written down all their prices, the actual prices will be revealed. The player who comes closest to an item can either win that item or pick from the basket of small gifts.

Completing the Puzzle

For this game you'll need puzzles that have about 20 pieces to them.

Before the party, put together the border of each puzzle.

During the party divide each of the kids into groups of three or four. Then assign each of them a puzzle. Finally, give each kid an equal amount of puzzle pieces that go with the puzzle.

Each team tries to put the puzzle together by combining the pieces they each have in their hands. Only the player who was given the puzzle piece can place that puzzle piece into that puzzle.

The first team that puts together their puzzle wins.

Mummy Wrap

You will need rolls of toilet paper for this game.

Divide each of the kids into pairs.

One person in the pair will get wrapped up in the toilet paper (like a mummy) and the other player will do the wrapping. The first pair that has the mummy wrapped in toilet paper from toe to head (excluding the face) wins.

Every part of the mummy's body must be covered!

Kickball

For this game you'll need a rubber or plastic ball filled with air and four bases.

Almost all of the kids should be familiar with kickball.

This game is like baseball but instead of hitting a ball you kick a much larger ball. Baseball rules apply except with kickball a player is out if he gets hit with the ball.

The Imaginary Gift

This is another game that doesn't require any props.

The kids sit around in a circle. The first player decides what she wants to have as an imaginary gift. Then she pretends to pick up that gift, handles it as it should be handled, and then passes to the next player.

For example, the player may pretend she's picking up a puppy. So, she'll scoop it up, pet it, and nuzzle with it.

Each player passes the imaginary gift until it gets to the last kid in the circle. That kid tries to guess what the gift is. If he's wrong then the kid beside him tries to guess and it keeps going back around the circle until someone gets it right.

The game ends once every player has a chance to pass around an imaginary gift.

Switch

This game only requires that you have a pen and paper for recording the switches and checking them off.

Divide the kids at the party into two groups. Then take one group into another room and have the kids switch things with each other like jewelry, shoes, belts, and coats. Obviously you don't want to switch shirts or pants.

Record all the switches onto your paper. Then have the kids go back into the other room and let the other team try to guess what switches have been made. As they guess correctly that switch should be crossed off the list.

After all the correct answers have been given, the second team will go into another room and make similar switches.

Building Muscles

For this game you'll need a lot of balloons and two pairs of long underwear. The balloons will have to be blown up.

Divide the kids at the party into two groups. Then tell them to choose one player as the muscle builder. Divide the balloons between the two teams and have the muscle builders put on the large long underwear over their clothes.

Then give the kids three minutes to stuff as many balloons as possible into their body builder's suit. Either have someone help you count as the balloons are put in or count them as the balloons are taken out.

The team that has the most balloons wins.

If you want, you can play several rounds of this using different kids each time.

Guess the Cereal

For this game you'll need a variety of types of cereal such as you'll find in the variety packs of small cereal boxes. You'll also need paper plates, blindfolds for each child, and a pen/pencil and paper for each child.

Have all the kids sit around the table. Put their blindfolds on them and place a paper plate in front of them. Then place one or two pieces of one type of cereal on the plate and have them eat it.

After the cereal is gone, the children should take off their blindfolds and write down the type of cereal they think they just ate.

Then the process should be repeated with the kids being blindfolded and a new cereal being given out.

At the end, reveal the types of cereal the kids ate and let them check their answers. The player who got the most right is the winner.

Picky Eater

This game is similar to “Guess the Cereal” but instead of using cereal you’ll use things like yogurt, salad dressing, oatmeal, and mashed bananas.

So you’ll need paper plates, napkins, spoons, the food, pens/pencils, and paper.

The children will sit around the table with paper plates and spoons in front of them and napkins on their laps. Then give a small sample of each food to them and let them taste it using their spoon.

Then they should write down what food they taste. (They need to be specific. For example, raspberry yogurt will be a correct answer but yogurt isn’t.)

The child who correctly identifies the most foods is the winner.

The Alphabet Game

You’ll need index cards and a marker for this game.

Before the party write one letter of the alphabet on an index card until every letter has been written once. Then think of fun categories (sports, songs, cartoons, etc.) and write them down on index cards as well.

Either pick a kid to be the leader or you can be the leader. The rest of the kids should be divided into teams of three or four.

The leader draws a category card and holds it up. Then the leader picks an alphabet card and says the letter. The first team to shout a word that begins with the letter and fits in the category wins that alphabet card.

The game continues until all the alphabet cards are gone. The team with the most cards wins.

Water Gun Fun

If the party is during the summer and the weather is going to be nice, this is a great game.

You’ll need to buy a squirt gun for every kid and write on the invitations that kids should expect to get wet. You’ll also need buckets of water.

Then give all the kids a squirt gun. Send them outside and let them have fun.

For larger parties you may want to divide the kids into groups and have one group at a time play this game while other groups play something else.

Face Painting

For this you will need face paint and face paint accessories. You'll also need clothes and towels to help the kids clean their faces afterward.

Divide the kids into two groups. One group will paint each others faces first while the other large group will be the judges.

Divide the painting group into pairs. Each pair will paint each other's faces. Then they'll be judged. You could have one category (for example funniest) or you could have several categories.

The winner(s) will be announced and then the groups will switch roles.

The game can either be played for a specified amount of time or it can continue until a certain number of cards are used up.

Chapter 4 –

Perfect Party Games for Ages 10 - 12 (42)

Kids at his age are ready for just about any kid games you can throw at them. You just have to be careful not to make it too childish or they may refuse to play.

Ice Breaker

This is a great game for parties that have some kids that don't know each other. However, it's fun even if the kids do know each other.

You'll need paper and pen to write out a checklist. Each kid will need a checklist and a pen.

Before the party, make a checklist that will help each of the kids get to know each other. The checklist will give items on it like: "Owns a dog," "Lives in a White House," and "Is an Only Child."

Then it's each kid's job to go around the party and find out one kid that fits in each of these categories. If possible, each kid can only appear on the checklist once.

To make the game more fun and challenging, there is no talking allowed.

The first kid to complete to complete the checklist is the winner.

The Telephone Game

All that's needed for this game is a pen and paper.

Before the party write down a few ridiculous rumors about some of the kids that will be at the party. These rumors should be very ridiculous. However, if you don't feel comfortable doing this then you can make up rumors about musicians and television and movie stars.

Write these rumors down on slips of paper – one rumor per slip.

Then tell the kids to stand or sit in a line or in a circle. Call one kid over to you and show him one slip of paper with a rumor on it. Let the kid read it for a few seconds and memorize it. Then that kid must go back to the line or circle and whisper the rumor into the ear of the kid who is next. Then that kid whispers to the next person and so on.

When the last person has been told the rumor, ask that kid to repeat what he just heard. Then you can compare how close it is to the original rumor.

Alphabet Game Show

This game is very similar to the Alphabet Game (for ages 7-9). You need all the same materials: index cards and a marker.

And the preparation is the same: writing alphabet cards and category cards.

Either choose a host or you can be the host. Then divide the kids into teams of three or four.

The host will hold-up a category card for all to see. Then the host will choose an alphabet card. Then each team will say a word that begins with that letter and fits into the category.

The game continues with each team saying a word. If a team can't think of a word then they are out for the round. The round continues until only one team is left. That team is awarded the card.

Volleyball

Kids at this age are beginning to love playing sports. What better sport to play at a party than volleyball?

Of course you will need a volleyball net, a volleyball, and something to use for lines.

Then divide the kids into two teams and let them play against each other. You could even get little trophies to award to the winners.

For larger parties, you could divide the kids into three or more teams and let them take turns playing each other. Just make sure you have something else to do for the kids who aren't playing.

Writing Musical Chairs

For this game you'll need paper and pens for all the kids. You'll also need to begin four or five stories on your own. These stories should be made up by you or they can be the beginning of common fairy tales.

Have all the kids sit around a table. Place one story in front of each kid. Explain to them that they will flip their paper over, read the beginning of the story, and then continue the story however they want. They'll do all of this while listening to music.

When the music stops they should stand up and walk around the table until the music starts again. Then they should find a seat (one they've yet to sit in) and continue the story that someone else already wrote on.

After four rounds, you should tell them they have three minutes to finish the story. When time is up, everyone should take turns reading the story that's in front of them.

Water Balloon Toss

For this game you'll need balloons filled with water (water balloons).

Have each of the kids get a partner. If possible, make each pair a boy and a girl.

Then each pair will get one water balloon. The kids will form two lines, making sure each person faces their partner. The lines will begin three steps apart. Then each person will toss the balloon to their partner.

Each line will take one step back and then toss the balloons again. When a balloon breaks, that pair is out of the game.

The last pair with a balloon intact wins the game.

Dizzy Sticks

For this game you'll want two baseball bats and a lot of space.

Do not play this game just after eating!

Divide the kids into two equal groups. Then have them form a line with each of their teams. The first person in each line should start about twenty feet from the baseball bat, which will be lying on the ground.

When you say "go," the first two kids will run to the bats, pick them up, bend over and place their foreheads against the bat, and then spin around ten times. The bat must stay on the ground or close to the ground at all times.

After spinning ten times, that player will then try to run back to the next player on the team. Once the next player is tagged, that player must then run and repeat the process.

Again, most of the kids will get very dizzy so make sure there is plenty of space.

The first team to have all their players complete the race wins.

Egg Relay

For this game you'll need three spoons for each team and some eggs. You'll probably want to make the eggs hardboiled but it isn't mandatory.

Divide the kids into at least two teams. Then give each team three spoons and an egg. Half the team should go about thirty feet away with one of the spoons.

Then when you say "go," the first players should start running toward their teammates while carrying the egg on their spoon. While they're running, if they drop the egg, they have to try to scoop it up with their spoon. They can't use their hands.

Once they get to their teammate, that teammate should be holding a spoon and she has to receive the egg on her spoon without anyone using their hands. Then the new teammate with the egg must run back to other line where another teammate should be waiting with the third spoon.

If the eggs aren't hardboiled and the egg breaks, that team must start over with a new egg.

The first team to have all their players successfully carry the egg from one end to the other is the winner.

Three-Legged Race

This is the classic racing game.

What you need is something to tie two people's legs together such as a rope or a men's necktie.

Then mark a starting line and finish line. Have the kids break into pairs.

Then each pair must stand shoulder to shoulder and tie together their inside legs. (So the left leg of one runner will be tied to the right leg of another runner.)

Once the kids' legs are tied together (so they have three legs) then they should line-up on the starting line and get ready for the race. When you say "go" all the kids should race to the finish line. The first pair to cross the line wins the race.

Sack Races

For this game you'll need sacks that are large enough for the kids to step into and pull up to their waist or higher.

Mark a starting line and a finish line.

Then give a sack to each kid. Tell them to step into the sack, pull it up as far as they can, and then hold onto it. Then let them know they'll race in the sack from the starting line to the finish line.

The kids should line up on the starting line and then race when to the finish line. The kid who finishes first wins.

For larger parties, break the kids into four groups and then let the four winners from each group race to decide the overall winner.

Fun with the Balloon

For this game you'll need a balloon for each kid at the party.

Before the party you should inflate enough balloons for each kid at the party to have one.

Once again you're going to need a starting line and a finish line.

Give each kid a balloon and tell them they are going to have to race to the finish line while holding the balloon between their legs. If they drop the balloon then they have to pick it up and start the race over.

The first kid to cross the finish line is the winner.

You may want to have the kids go to the finish line and back to the starting line to make the race longer and a little more challenging.

Wheel Barrow Races

There's nothing special needed for this game. You will need a starting line and another line about thirty feet away.

Break the kids into pairs. Then tell them one kid will get down on all fours while the other kid will grab his ankles. Then the kid on all fours will support himself with his arms while the other kid lifts his ankles.

During the race one kid will run on his hands while the other kid will hold his ankles and run behind him. Once they reach the other line, they'll switch position and the other kid will run on her hands.

The first team to go to the other line and back first, wins the race.

Baby Bottle Races

You'll need baby bottle with nipples for this game. You'll also need a drink – water, soda, juice, or punch – to put in the bottles.

All the kids should sit around a table with a baby bottle in front of them. Each of these baby bottles should be filled with an equal amount of whatever drink you want.

Then all the kids will try to drink as fast as they can from the baby bottle.

The first kid to empty her bottle is the winner.

Blind Relay Race

For this game you'll need blindfolds and plenty of space.

You need two lines that are about thirty feet apart.

Divide the kids into teams of three or four. The give each team a blindfold. Half the team should stand at one line while the other half should stand at the other line.

The first racer for each team should put the blindfold over their eyes. Then, when the race begins, all the kids with blindfolds should spin around three times and then try to run to their team on the opposite line. The team can yell to let the racer know where to go.

Once a runner reaches the other line, that racer takes off her blindfold and hands it to the next racer on her team. Then the blindfold is put over that players eyes, the player spins three times, and then tries to run to the other line.

This continues until every member of the team successfully goes from one line to the other with their eyes blinded.

The first team to finish is the winner.

Hoola Hoop Hoopla

For this game you need a hoola hoop for each kid.

Give all the kids their own hoola hoop.

When you give the signal, all the kids should hoola hoop (put the hoop around their waist and try to spin it around their waste continuously without letting it fall) as long as possible.

The last kid to keep the hoola hoop going is the winner.

The Olympics

For this game you'll need a series of starting and finish lines.

Divide the kids into pairs. Each pair is a team. Then have the teams compete two at a time with all four team members racing at the same time.

First have the kids balance and apple on their head. If they drop it then they have to start over. Next have the kids crawl to the next line. Then have them crab walk to the next finish line. Finally, have the kids leap frog over each other to the end of the race.

The winners of each race will race two at a time until only one winning team remains.

Truth or Dare

For this game you'll need slips of paper and a pen to write on the paper.

Before the party write a different question on several different slips of paper. Then write a different stunt on several slips of paper.

During the game, kids will take turns choosing "Truth or Dare." Whichever they choose will determine which slip they need to pick. Then they should read the slip or paper and either answer the question or perform the stunt.

Quick Draw

For this game you'll need paper and pens or pencils.

Before the party write down several different words that will be fun to draw. Place each word into a paper bag.

Then during the party divide the kids into two groups. Each kid in each group will take turns being the drawer.

Before each round, one of the drawers will take a slip of paper from the paper bag and both drawers will look at it, taking care not to show it to the rest of the team.

Then each drawer will try to draw a picture that will make their team guess the word they're drawing. The first team to guess correctly wins that round.

The team that wins the most rounds wins the game.

Scavenger Hunt

For this game you'll need paper with a checklist on it, pens, and bags.

Before the game make a list of things the kids can find around your house (inside, outside, or both) and then make enough copies so that each kid can have a copy.

Then, depending on how many kids are at the party, divide the kids into groups, pairs, or let them play solo. Give each team, pair, or a person a bag to put their items in and a checklist and pen.

Tell the kids where the search will be. Then turn them loose and give them fifteen or twenty minutes to find as many items on the checklist as they can. Each time they find an item they should put it in the bag.

Charades

You will need pen and paper to write topics down for the game.

Before the party write some popular phrases and book, movie, and song titles on slips of paper. Then put the slips into some type of container (a bag, bowl, etc.).

At the party divide the kids into two teams. One kid from each team will take turns drawing a slip and acting out what's on that slip. The kid can't talk. She must get her team to guess the phrase within sixty seconds without saying anything.

The team that guesses the most phrases by the end of the game is the winner.

Create a Story

There's nothing special needed for the game.

All the kids sit around in a circle or around a table. Then one of the kids begins a story by saying one word. Then the kid to the left of the beginner says another word. Then the next kid says another word.

Each word should build on the other words so that sentences are being formed and eventually an entire story. The game should move very fast with no time passing between each word being spoken.

The stories that are created will be entertaining and usually very funny.

Crack the Code

There isn't anything special needed for this game.

With the kids sitting around, you say something that has a code to it and the kids must discover the code and play along until all the kids crack the code.

For example, your code might be saying a sentence with an animal and an object starting with the same letter. So you say, "the bear has a ball." Or you could say, "the cat loves chocolate."

Keep saying sentences until one of the kids offers a sentence of their own. If the sentence fits accept it, if not, tell them to keep trying.

Eventually all the kids should be able to crack the code and offer sentences of their own. You can make the code as simple or as complicated as you want.

Once the kids get the hang of the game they can begin making their own codes.

Who Am I?

You will need slips of paper and a pen or pencil to write on the slips before the party. You'll also need a container for the slips to go in.

Before the game, write well-known characters and musicians on the slips of paper.

Then during the game divide the kids into two teams. One player from each team takes turns drawing a slip of paper and then they act like the character or the musician. Talking is allowed but they can't say anything that's a direct give away of who they are.

Give each team thirty seconds to guess who their teammate is.

The team who guesses correctly the most is the winner.

Freaky Friday

For this game you'll need to plan ahead and make sure at least one adult can come to the party with their child.

Before the party, tell all the party guests to switch the style of the clothing they wear to the person they're going to the party with – the adult will dress like the kid and the kid will dress like the adult.

This is sure to grab some laughs and it's also a great bonding experience.

You've Changed

You will need slips of paper and a pen or pencil to write on the slips. You'll also need a container to place the slips in.

Before the party write each kid's name on one slip of paper. Then place all the names into a container.

Next, make a list of all the names. Then make a copy for each kid at the party. The list should have a place for the kids to write another name next to each name on the list.

During the party, each kid should draw a slip of paper. The name on the paper is who they will act like for the next fifteen minutes.

Once all the kids have a new identity, tell them they have fifteen minutes to go around talking to each other trying to figure out who they are. As they think they know, they should write the new name of each person next to their actual name on the checklist.

The kid who gets the most right is the winner.

Do You Know Your Friends?

You will need paper and pens or pencils.

Before the party, make a questionnaire with 20 questions. Ask basic questions like: Where were you born? What's your favorite food? What do you want to do when you grow up?

Try to ask questions that are most likely to get unique answers.

Then when the kids arrive at the party, have them fill out the questionnaires without letting anyone else know the answers.

After this, while the kids play another game, make up a sheet based on the answers. For example, if one kid was born in Hawaii, make a question that reads, "Do you know who was born in Hawaii?"

The kids each complete their own sheet and then you reveal the answers.

How Many Words?

For this game you'll need paper and a pen or pencil.

You need to think of a phrase that's appropriate for the party you're having. If it's a birthday party then "Happy Birthday" would be perfect.

Give each kid a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Then tell the kids to write the chosen phrase at the top of the paper.

Tell the kids they have ten minutes (or however long you want) to make as many words out of the chosen phrase. For example, they can make the words "rap" and "bad" out of "Happy Birthday."

The kid who correctly writes down the most words is the winner.

How Much Candy?

For this game you'll need a plastic or a glass jar full of jelly beans, M&Ms, or a similar candy. Next to the jar you'll need quarter slips of paper and a couple pens or pencils.

Tell the kids to guess how many pieces of candy they think is in the jar.

The kid who guesses closest to the actual number wins the jar and the candy.

What's That Smell?

This is another game that involves food and kids trying to identify it. Except instead of tasting the food, in this game the kids will smell it.

You will need paper and a pen or pencil for every kid. You'll also need a blindfold for each kid and several different types of foods. Some examples are an orange (peeled), an apple (peeled), mustard, pepperoni, and anything else you can think of.

The kids will sit around the table with their blindfolds, and their pen/pencil and paper. Then they'll blindfold themselves and you'll bring out the first food item. Hoover it under each of their noses for a few seconds. Then take the food away to another room.

Let them remove their blindfold and write down what they think the food was. Then repeat the process.

The kid who gets the most right is the winner.

Tag

This is a classic kids game.

You don't need anything for it but lots of space.

All the kids stand around outdoors, one kid is chosen to be "it" and then that kid has to try to catch one of the other players. When a player is caught, that player then becomes the new "it" and has to chase and catch another player.

Freeze Tag

This is a variation on the classic Tag game.

Again, you don't need anything but space to play this game.

Begin the game outside by naming one kid "it" and having that child chase around all the other kids. Once a kid is tagged, the kid must freeze in place. Then the "it" continues to tag other players.

Once the game gets down to two players, the "it" and one other player, whoever gives up is the winner. You may want to give the "it" player to a count of one hundred to get the other player. If the last player can't be caught in that time, that player is the winner.

Tag Team Tag

This is another version of tag.

Any player who's been tagged by "it" turns into "it" as well and tags other players.

The game ends when there is only one player left. That one player is the winner.

Blob Tag

Yet another variation of tag.

For this game, every time a player is tagged, that player must link hands with “it” and together they must chase down the other kids. As each kid is caught, that kid must join hands with the other kids too.

The last kid to be caught is the winner.

Dodgeball

For this game you’ll need a space that can be lined to be a rectangle. Then you’ll have to divide the rectangle in half.

You’ll also need four or six balls – very soft so they don’t cause injury.

After the rectangle is all set, divide the kids at the party into two teams. Then have one team stand on one half of the rectangle and the other team stand on the other half.

Divide the balls evenly. Then when the game begins, players on each team will try to throw the balls and hit players on the other team.

If a ball is caught, the player who threw the ball must leave the game. If there are one or more players out of the game for the team that caught the ball, one of them can come back in. If the ball hits a player and isn’t caught, the player the ball hit has to leave the game.

A team wins when they knock out all the players on the other team.

Dodgeball – Japan Rules

The rules for this game are the same with a couple notable exceptions.

Instead of playing with multiple balls you’ll only play with one ball. And instead of all the players starting in the rectangle, one player from each team begins the game outside the rectangle behind the opposing team.

The players on the outside are allowed to hit the players on the opposing team if and when they get the ball.

As players get out, they join the players behind the other team and they can hit players from the opposing team too.

Any time a player in on a team catches the ball, it doesn't bring a player back into the game but it does remove the player who threw the ball.

A team wins the game when all the players from the opposing team are removed from the rectangle.

Guess the Song

For this game you'll need paper and a pen or pencil for every partygoer. You'll also need to record or burn (to a CD) 30 second snippets of popular songs. Finally, you'll need a CD player or some other device that'll play the music for you.

When you record the songs, be sure to leave 30 seconds between each song. You should record about a dozen songs.

During the party each kid is going to get a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Tell them to number down the side of the page. There numbers should go as high as the number of songs they'll listen to.

Then they will listen to the mix of songs you made and write down the names of as many songs as they can.

The kid who gets the most right is the winner.

Guess the Movie

Once again, you'll need paper and a pen or pencil for every kid that will be at the party. You'll also need a prepared list of character names from a variety of movies. (You can find this on the Internet.) You should have at least twenty movies.

Give all the kids a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Then tell them to number down the side of page. Finally, begin reading off the names of two or three main characters from movies the kids should recognize.

The kid who correctly identifies the most movies is the winner.

Product on Your Back(38)

For this game you'll need index cards and a marker.

With the marker write different product names on the index cards. The products should be popular to kids such as" M&Ms, Nintendo, Disney, and Nickelodeon.

Then when the kids arrive at the party, put one of the index cards on their back. Make sure they don't see it.

The kids must find out what product they are by asking questions to other kids at the party. No one is allowed to look at the sign or ask someone to tell them what the sign reads.

This game can go on during the party and isn't over until all the kids know which product they are.

Spud

For this game you need a ball, such as a kick ball. You also need plenty of space outside.

One kid will begin with the ball and everyone else will circle around that player. The kid with the ball will give the command for the other kids to run, then while they run the kid holding the ball will count to ten and then yell, "Spud!"

All the other players must stop where they are. Then the ball carrier can take four steps in either direction to try to get close enough to a player to hit that player with the ball. Then the ball carrier continues to take four steps in any direction as long as she keeps hitting other players with the ball.

If the ball handler can hit all the players then she wins. If not, she loses. The last player hit with the ball will be the ball handler for the next round.

Number Spud

This game is similar to Spud. However, instead of the person who starts with the ball counting and then hitting other kids, the player whose number is called will be the ball handler.

Each player surrounding the person with the ball will be given a number. Then the player with the ball will throw the ball into the air and call a number. Who ever has that number must run and get the ball and yell "Spud!"

All the other rules are the same as the regular Spud game.

Water Balloon War

For this game you need nice weather and a squirt gun for every kid.

Then divide the kids into two equal teams. Then tell them the object is to hit a player from the opposing team with water. When this happens, that player is out of the game.

The team that eliminates all the players on the team is the winner.

If there are a lot of kids at the party, you may want to divide into three or four teams. The most players that should be on a team are six or seven.

Red Rover

This is another classic game.

You don't need anything but space to play it.

Start by dividing the kids on the team into two equal groups. They have the kids line-up facing each other about ten feet away. The kids on each team extend their arms to the sides and hold hands.

Then one player on the first team will call a player from the other team over by saying, "Red rover, red rover send (insert kid's name) over."

The player that was called then runs from her team and tries to break through the line on the other team by busting through the linked hands. If she successfully breaks through the line then she takes any one of the players from that team over to be on her team. However, if she can't break through then she becomes a member of that team.

The game continues until one team no longer has any players.

Chapter 5 –

Perfect Party Games for All Ages (9)

It's difficult to find games that will be fun for kids ranging from the ages of two to twelve. Here are nine games that should work very well. However, the older kids should still be reminded that anytime they play with little kids they need to be careful of the much smaller kids.

Hide and Seek

The first game is a game most of the kids should know about.

There is nothing needed for it but good places to hide.

The game begins with one kid being "it" and the rest of the kids running to hide. While they hide "it" counts to thirty. Then "it" shouts, "Ready or not here I come!"

The place where "it" counted is "home" and that's where all the kids who hide want to make it back to. "It" wants to find them and tag them before they reach home.

The last kid that's tagged will be "it" for the next round. If no one is tagged then the same kid will be "it" again.

The littler kids will probably need direction for hiding and running to home. No little kids can be "it."

Wicked Witch What Time Is It?

This is another game that you don't need anything special for.

One person is the witch and the rest of kids will ask her what time it is.

The witch will be standing about fifty feet from the safe spot, the spot where all the kids must run to be safe. Then the kids will slowly approach the witch asking her what time is it.

The witch will give a variety of answer such as nine pm. When the witch says “twelve o’clock,” that’s the cue for the kids to try to run for home. Meanwhile, the witch will try to catch (tag) as many kids as possible.

The last kid to be caught will be the next witch.

Capture the Flag

For this game you need a large space outside and two objects that can be flags or something similar.

Divide the kids into two equal teams and place the “flags” on each end of the playing area. Then each team will begin the game by standing back by their flag.

The goal is for one player on one of the teams to capture the other team’s flag and make it all the way back to their own side with the flag.

Members of each team can tag members of the other team while they are in their opponents’ end. However, their teammates can unfreeze them by tagging them back.

Once the flag is captured and brought to the other side then the team that captured the flag wins.

Designer T-Shirts

For this you will need to buy plain t-shirts and accessories to decorate the shirts.

Each of the kids at the party is going to make their own t-shirts. For the smaller kids, they’ll need help making their t-shirts and they should NOT be given anything that could possibly hurt them. They will be happy just to have some crayons and washable markers to decorate their shirts.

Be sure to decorate the shirts where you have plenty of space and where nothing valuable will be stained.

Puzzle Put Together

For this game you’ll need to buy a few twenty piece puzzles.

Divide the partygoers into teams of four. If possible, there should be all different ages in each group.

Then place the unopened puzzle boxes in front of each team. Tell them to go.

Every member of the team has to put at least three pieces of the puzzle into place.

The first team to put together their puzzle wins.

Obstacle Course

For this game you will need a variety of obstacles set up in the yard. You can use things like lawn chairs or anything else.

Set a starting line and a finish line. Then set obstacles along the way for the kids to run around and in and out. Be creative with the obstacles and what should happen.

Then divide the kids into groups of four, making sure there's a little kid on each team (if possible).

Have each of the teams race until you're down to the final two teams. The winner of that final race will be awarded the overall winner.

Video Fun

For this you'll need a video camera, a television, and a separate room where the video taping can take place.

At the party divide the kids into groups of four. Then let the kids take turns going to a room away from the party to produce their own videos.

Near the end of the party, after every group has had a chance to video their skit, watch the skits together.

Water Balloon Fight

For this game you'll need balloons that you can fill with water.

Simply fill the balloons with water and let the kids go out and throw the balloons at each other.

You will want to divide the kids into age groups so the two year olds aren't in with the older kids.

Face Painting

You will need to buy face paint at the store.

Have the older kids paint the faces of the younger kids.

This will be fun for the older kids because they'll get to be creative and have fun with face paint. And it'll be fun for the little kids who'll get their faces painted.

Conclusion

So now we've taken a look at 101 different games that are great for parties.

Choose the ones that you think will fit best with your party and the kids who'll be there.
And then get ready for some real fun.