

Anytime, Anywhere

Activities to do and games to play wherever you are: in the car, on the bus, in a waiting room, or at the dinner table.

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Variations

Play with a group (Hard). Play with three or four players. One player picks the secret word. The others take turns asking yes-or-no questions. The player who identifies the secret word wins.

Play on the page (Medium, Hard). Play with words on the page of a book or magazine.





Levels: Easy, Medium, Hard

Group size: any

Yes, No, Maybe

Will the next person to arrive have two eyes? ... three eyes? Predict what's possible.



none



Pose a silly or serious yes-or-no question

Ask about something that could happen ...

Easy. ... in the next few minutes.

Will the next person to get on the bus have two heads?

Medium. ... in the next hour.

Will the rain stop by snack time?

Hard. ... by the end of the day.

Will we have a snowstorm today?

Predict

Everyone predicts "yes," "no," or "maybe."

Pick "maybe" only if you're really not sure!



Why do you think we will have a snowstorm today? Do we usually get snow in the summer?



bout

Did your prediction come true?

Variations

Definite and impossible (Medium, Hard). Everyone says one thing that will (almost) definitely happen and one that is (almost) impossible. For instance, "When I wake up tomorrow morning, I will still be 5 years old," and "When I wake up tomorrow morning, I will have turned into a cat."

Number it (Hard). Choose a number from 1 to 10 to show the likelihood, with 1 unlikely or impossible and 10 very likely or definite.







far you'll go in five (or ten) animal moves. Make your moves, and compare predictions and results.

Dress the part (Easy, Medium, Hard) Make a mask, ears, or a tail for your animal. Wear it when you see how far you can go.

Baby steps and giant steps (Easy, Medium). Start at one side of the room and take three baby steps. Then predict: will you go farther if you take three giant steps? Try it and see.







Levels: Easy, Medium, Hard

Group size: small enough

so everyone has a chance to look and count

What's on the Page?

Count and discover ... in a book or magazine, or on a poster.

Find something to count on the image

Easy. Up to 4 similar items (e.g., birds, flowers).Medium. Up to 6 similar items.Hard. Up to 12 similar items.



2 Count together



I see flowers! How many are on the page? How can we keep track of which we've already counted?

3 Count again



If we start on the bottom of the page instead of the top, do you think we'll get four again? Let's try it.

Variations

Count shapes (Easy, Medium, Hard). Count how many triangles (or circles, squares, or rectangles) are on the page.

Materials

Per group

around you

a picture book, magazine, or almost any image

Patterns on the Page (Easy, Medium, Hard). Find images or rhymes that show patterns. Predict what comes next in the pattern.

Count off the page (Easy, Medium, Hard). Count objects or shapes on a walk outdoors or at the playground. How many in my picture? (Medium, Hard). Draw a picture with several apples, balloons, or trees. Trade pictures with a partner, who counts to find out how many you drew.

Compare counts (Hard). Count and compare two similar objects on the page.





Seeing Shapes

Play a guessing game with shapes you see in the room.

Before beginning

Pick a section of the room:

Easy. Choose an area with 3-4 objects in different geometric shapes.

Medium. Choose an area with 5-6 objects in different geometric shapes.

Hard. Choose an area with a wide variety of objects and shapes.

Decide who will be Player 1 first. Each player will have a turn.

Player 1 secretly picks an object in the chosen area

l see a circle.

2 Player 1 announces the shape



Ask about features of the object. Do not ask if a certain object is the secret one.

Player 1 answers the question.





Materials

none







Keep asking and answering



What do you know so far? ... It's a circle, it's not blue and we use it to tell time. What could it be?

Player 2 may guess after asking two questions. If the guess is not correct, ask and answer again before another guess.

5 Switch roles and play again

If you were Player 1 last time, this time you're Player 2.

Variations

Play with winners (Hard). Keep track of how many questions each player asks to identify the secret object. The player who asks the fewest questions wins.

Play on the page (Easy, Medium, Hard). Play with images see as you look at a book or magazine.



Play with a group (Hard). Play with three or four players. One player picks the secret object. The others take turns asking yes-or-no questions. The player who identifies the secret object wins.

Play with blocks (Easy, Medium, Hard). Assemble a set of blocks of different shapes and colors. Ask yes-or-no questions to identify the secret block. After each question, remove the blocks that are ruled out.





Level: Easy (Medium, Hard)

Group size: 1 (see Variations for more)

Take Two

Time to clean up! Count as you put away toys on the floor.

Is two enough?



If you put away two toys, will you clear the floor? Do you think there are more than two toys on the floor?

2 Take two

Count and put away two toys.

3 Are we done?

Keep "taking two" until everything is picked up.

How many in all?

An adult helps count by 2s to find the total.

Materials

Per group

ordinary clutter Easy. Up to 4 items.

Medium. Up to 6 items. Hard. Up to 12 items.



Variations

Take five (or ten) (Medium, Hard). Try this with a group of 2–4. Take five (or ten) toys off the floor at a time. Then count by 5s (or 10s) to find the total.

Estimate first (Hard). Before counting, estimate the total amount on the floor. Then, count as you clean up.

Take shapes (Easy, Medium, Hard). Take all the toys that include circles off the floor. Then, take all the rectangles. Is anything left?





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