



# Good for Groups

Group games, party favorites, icebreakers, and circle time activities for indoors and out.

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# Catch the Beat

Make a rhythm pattern together and follow it.

## 1 Start a rhythm pattern with two beats

For instance, clap your hands, jump, clap, jump ...



### Materials

none

## 2 Keep repeating until everyone is following along



What comes after "jump?"

## 3 Mix it up

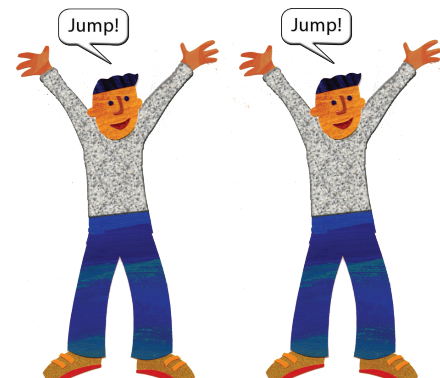
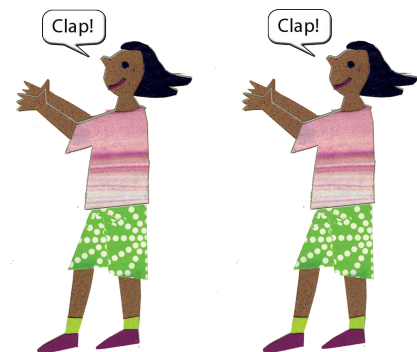
**Easy.** Take turns doing a different part of the pattern. One person claps, the next jumps, the next claps, etc.

**Medium.** Double the beats: two claps, two jumps, two claps, two jumps ...

**Hard.** Half the group keeps the beat; the other half doubles it.



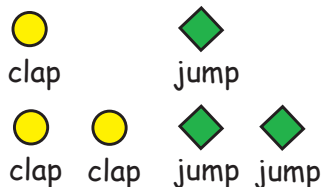
Do we jump as many times as we clap?  
How do you know?



## Variations

**More beats (Easy, Medium, Hard).** Use a rhythm pattern with three or four beats.

**Draw the beat (Hard).** Half the group keeps the beat. The other half draws a visual pattern to show the beats they hear. Then, switch roles.



**Play the beat (Easy, Medium, Hard).** Play drums, shakers, or other rhythm instruments to mark the beats.

**Bark to the beat (Easy, Medium, Hard).** Mark the beat with animal sounds and actions. For instance, bark like a dog, roar like a lion, and stretch like a cat.

**Levels:** Easy, Medium, Hard

**Group size:**

Easy. 2-4

Medium. 5-6

Hard. 7-12

# Group Up

Find everyone with the same number of shoelaces as you, and form a group together.

## Materials

none

### 1 Announce something to match

Choose a number characteristic that everyone can see and compare, such as number of shoelaces, ponytails, or shirt buttons.



*How many shoelaces are you wearing? Do you think anyone is wearing the same number as you?*



### 2 Group up

Stand in a group with everyone who has the same number as you.



*How many shoelaces do Zara and Marcus have? Do you have the same number?*

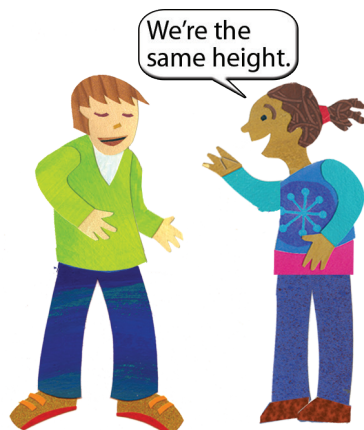
### 3 Compare



*Are more of us in the two-shoelace group or the no-shoelace group? Why do you think we don't have a one-shoelace group?*

## Variations

**Measure it (Hard).** Group up with everyone about as tall as you. Or, group up with everyone whose hair is about as long as yours.



**Scatter (Easy, Medium, Hard).** Everyone with the same number goes into a different part of the room. For instance, if you have 0 ponytails, stand by the windows. If you have 2, stand by the door.

**Group up by color (Easy).** Group up with everyone wearing the same color shoes as you.

**Match your name (Hard).** Group up with everyone who has the same number of first name letters as you.

# Stand and Vote

**Group size:**  
Easy. 3-4  
Medium. 5-6  
Hard. 7-12

Vote with your feet! Get in line to show your vote.

## 1 Pose a question with two clear choices

Should we go outside or stay inside after snack today?



### Materials

none

## 2 Vote with your feet

Form two lines, one for each choice.

Get in the line that matches your vote.

## 3 Compare votes



How can we tell which choice got more votes?

If you match up people in each line are there any extras?

## 4 Decide what's next



Should we go with the majority?

What should we do if there is a tie?



Go outside

Stay inside

## Variations

**More choices (Medium, Hard).** Try this with 7-12 people. Pose a question with three answers and get into three lines.



Should we play a card game, play a dice game, or read a book?

**Complex questions (Hard).** Line up by categories that involve "and," "not," and "or." For instance, stand in the first line if you are wearing red or blue; in the second if you are not wearing red or blue.

**Levels:** Easy, Medium, Hard

**Group size:**

Easy. 3-4

Medium. 5-6

Hard. 7-12

# Quick Questions

Answer a quick question to break the ice.

## Materials

### Per group

large piece of paper,  
marker, and stickers for  
making the chart

dot stickers

## Before beginning

Come up with a multiple choice question everyone will enjoy answering. The choices should be easy to show with stickers or pictures.

Write the question at the top of a large sheet of paper. Put the choices at the bottom.

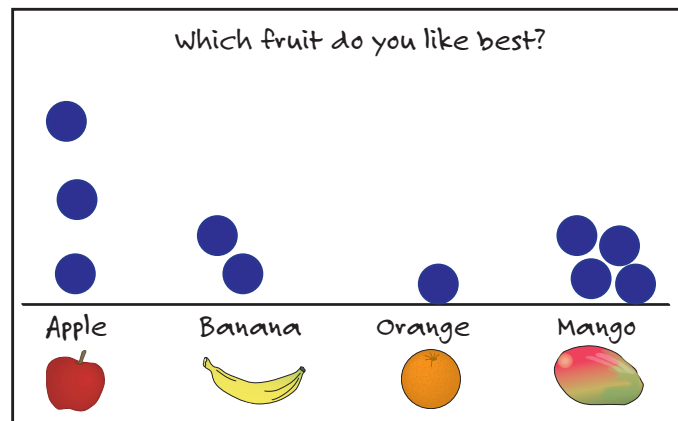
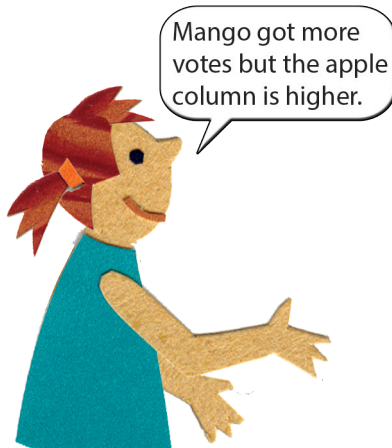
## 1 Predict



*Which of these fruits do you like the best?  
Do you think your favorite will be the most popular?*

*Would it be fair if some people voted more than once? Why or why not?*

## 2 Everyone answers



Use dot stickers to show your answer.

## 3 Look over the results



*How many people chose "mango"?  
How many more people chose "apple"  
than "banana"?  
Which answer got the most dots?*

## Variation

**Yes or no (Easy).** Use a question with just two answers. For instance, "Do you like dinosaurs?"



# Toy Store

Buy and sell with play money and toys.

## Before beginning

Sellers arrange their wares and attach price tags.



What price tag will you put on that stuffed animal? Will you sell everything for the same amount?

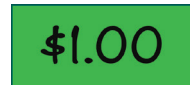


## Materials

### Per Shopper

play money

Easy. 5 \$1 bills.



Medium. 10 \$1 bills.

Hard. 5 \$1 bills, 3 \$2 bills, and 2 \$3 bills.

shopping bag or basket for purchases

### Per Seller

price tags (make from sticky notes)



Easy. Several \$1 price tags.

Medium. Several \$1 and \$2 price tags.

Hard. Several \$1, \$2, and \$3 price tags.

objects to "sell" (toy food, cars, animals)

Shoppers check how much money they have.



How many bills do you have?  
How much play money do you have in all?





\$3.00



### 1 Shop and sell

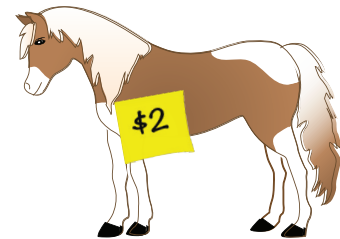
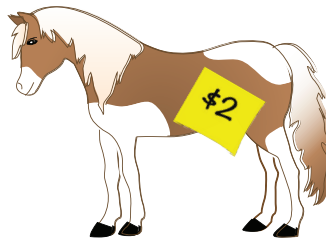
Shoppers circulate among the Sellers and make their purchases.



*How much have you spent so far? How much do you have left?*

*How much money will you have if you sell everything?*

*Do you have enough to buy two horses for \$2 each? How do you know?*



### 2 Switch roles

Today or another day, all the Sellers take a turn as Shoppers, and Shoppers have a chance to buy.

### 3 Return purchases and unsold goods

When you're done, put everything back for another day.

## Variations

**Write it yourself (Medium, Hard).** Write the numbers on price tags and bills yourself.

**Buy a set (Easy, Medium).** Sell items that make up sets (e.g., fork, spoon, knife; individual puzzle pieces). If items cost \$1 each, can you buy the whole set?

**Go to the bank (Hard).** One player is the Banker. The Banker gets a set of \$1 bills and makes change when asked.

**End of season sale (Hard).** Decide on a discount, such as buy one get one free, half off, or \$1 off for items that cost \$2 or more. You might need a 50¢ coin or bill.



# Who's Here?

Is anyone missing today? Keep track of your group.

## Before beginning

Make sure everyone knows the total number in the group.

### Materials

none

## 1 How many are here today?

Get in a circle and count off to find out.



*We counted starting with Kiara and got to five. If we start with Enzo this time, do you think we'll also count five?*



Here ...

## 2 How many are missing?

Name and count those who aren't here.



... missing

## 3 Does it add up?



*Five of us are here. If we count the two missing, does that come out to seven? How can we check?*

## Variation

**Five in a row (Hard).** Keep an attendance record for five sessions. Explore the data. On which day were the most people absent? On how many days was everyone here?



Date	Present	Absent	Total
Monday, October 1	5	2	7
Thursday, October 2	6	1	7
Wednesday, October 3	6	1	7
Thursday, October 4	7	0	7
Friday, October 5	4	3	7

**Levels:** Easy, Medium, Hard

**Group size:**

Easy. 3-4

Medium. 5-6

Hard. 7-12

# Line Up

Get moving when you're waiting in line.

## Before beginning

Choose a size or number characteristic everyone can see and compare, such as height or number of pockets.

### Materials

none



## 1 Predict



*If we line up by number of shirt pockets you are wearing, do you think you'll be at the start, middle, or end of the line?*

Take a look around you and make a prediction.

## 2 Line up

Make comparisons and stand in order. If two people have the same measurement or number, they stand one behind the other.



*Who is taller? Let's stand back to back to check.*

*Let's match up our pockets and see who has more.*

## 3 Are we in order?

Check and change places if needed. The last person in line chooses how to line up next time.

## Variations

**Me first (Hard).** Decide how to line up so that you're at the head of the line. For instance, if you're the tallest, you could ask everyone to line up from tallest to shortest.

**Ask and line up (Hard).** Line up by something you can ask about, for instance, by birth month, by birth year, or by number of pets.



# Treasure Hunt

Follow directions to find the hidden treasure!

## Before beginning

With adult help, put a string or rubber band on your right wrist.

Practice four directions to use in the treasure hunt:

- Take one step forward
- Take one step back
- Turn right (look at your wrist!)
- Turn left

Decide who will be the Finder. The Finder leaves the room while the others hide the treasure.

## Materials

### Per group

small object to hide

### Per child

string or rubber band for each person's right wrist



*Where should we put this toy cat so that Tomas doesn't see it right away when he comes back in the room?*

## 1 Direct me!

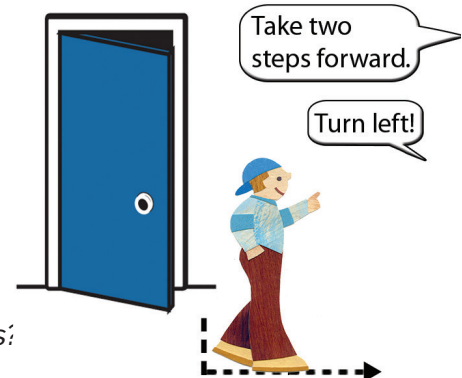
The Finder returns to the room. The others take turns giving directions to the treasure.

**Medium.** Give one of the four directions you practiced.

**Hard.** Give one of the four directions you practiced. Change the number of steps (e.g., take three steps back).



*Should Tomas go forward or back to get closer to the treasure?  
Does it matter if he takes big steps or baby steps?  
Which way is your right? Which way is Tomas's right?*



## 2 Keep going until the Finder finds the treasure

Whoever gave the last direction gets to be the Finder next time.

## Variations

**Make your own directions (Hard).** Add your own directions, for instance, turn to the window or turn half-way around.

**Map It (Hard).** Make a map to showing how to find the treasure.

