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Introduction

The games children play offer an excellent opportunity for growth and learning. This book includes games for both indoor and outdoor enjoyment. You will find games in subject areas such as math, science, and language arts, as well as multicultural games to be enjoyed by all children. There is also an assortment of games for a variety of holidays throughout the year. The game pages can be easily photocopied onto thick paper or cardstock and laminated. These can then be stored in an open file box for easy access. Whenever you are in need of a game, you or your students can refer to the file for ideas. These game cards can be used year after year.

The following features of this book will aid in implementing the games:

• lists of required materials and equipment
• games for quiet times
• a multicultural focus
• games for many ages and skill levels
• a bibliography
• an index

This book is divided into four main sections:

Playground Games
Rainy-Day Games
Holiday Games
International Games

The games in this book combine mental and physical skills. Games may be used to teach good sportsmanship, fairness, taking turns, and a number of other personal and social values. As a leader of these games, you have the opportunity to provide guidance and supervision to see that all of the children are included and get the most out of their experiences.

You can help the children learn the following skills:

• the importance of cooperation
• to improve decision making skills in situations that require quick thinking
• to take turns and be patient
• to accept and follow rules
• to accept winning and losing gracefully
• to enjoy physical fitness
Tips for Leading Games

1. Use whatever materials are at hand (improvise).

2. Change or modify the rules to fit the situation.

3. Vary the activities.

4. Avoid situations where the children pick the teams.

5. Arrange the teams so that they are equal in skill level.

6. Instead of eliminating players from a game, give the opposing team a point.

7. Choose games that allow the children to be active most of the time.

8. Explain the rules of new outdoor games to the entire group in a confined area before going outside.

9. Have all of the equipment ready and the play area determined before beginning.

10. Do not tolerate teasing or unsportsmanlike behavior.
Newspaper Race

Equipment:
• two newspaper sheets per player

Where to Play:
indoors or outdoors

Number of Players:
four or more

Directions:
Divide the players into two teams, and have them line up behind the start line. Give each player two sheets of newspaper. The first players leave the start line, race to a predetermined turning point, and return to the start line. While they are racing they may only move by stepping on their pieces of newspaper. A player may step on one paper, lay the other one down and step on it, pick up the one he or she just stepped off of and drop it down for the next step, etc. The first team to get all of their players back across the starting line is the winner.
Hoops—Greece

Equipment:
• a hoop of plastic, rubber, or an inflated tire tube for each player
• a stick for bowling (rolling) for each player

Where to Play:
outdoors

Number of Players:
one or more

Directions:
Hoop rolling has been a form of exercise for many years. Historically, there are references to it dating back to Ancient Greece (300 B.C.). To begin this modern version of the game, a player holds the hoop with one hand, fingers pointed downward. The player then bends slightly and flings the hoop forward. He or she runs after the hoop and tries to keep it rolling with one hand or a stick. Once two or more individuals have mastered hoop rolling, then a variety of games may be played. Try Hoop Haces, Hoop Relays, Hoop Targets, Follow the Hoop Leader, etc. If the hoop is big enough, the player may even try to jump through it while it is rolling.