

# Simple Activities for Children and Adolescents

## Activities with no supplies needed:

- \_\_\_ Tell stories.
- \_\_\_ Tell exaggerated “Stories” of the “old days” to entertain.
- \_\_\_ Put on mini plays or skits. Have children act out different characters.
- \_\_\_ Play “Story Building.” One person starts the story, and then the other(s) add(s) to it.
- \_\_\_ Share secrets, most embarrassing moments, wishes, and/or dreams.
- \_\_\_ Make up different dances or dance to known songs (i.e., the hokie pokie). Have a dance contest.
- \_\_\_ Play “Name that Tune.” One person hums a tune or says a line from a song and others try to guess the name of the song.
- \_\_\_ Play “Hide and Seek.” Designate an area with clear boundaries. Have everyone gather around a landmark that will be home base. Pick a person to be IT. Whoever IT is closes his eyes and counts to a designated number while the rest of the players hide. Once the countdown is done, IT says “Ready or not here I come” then goes to look for, and find, the hidden players. The first player found will be IT for the next round. Repeat.
- \_\_\_ Play “Tag” or some variation. Examples include Freeze Tag (when people are tagged they freeze into position. Others who have not been tagged can unfreeze them by touching the frozen person or crawling through their legs). TV Tag (a player who is tagged by the person IT can be unfrozen by answering or naming something in a category that IT has established. Example - IT says “cartoons.” When a player is tagged they can say the name of a cartoon to become unfrozen.) Finally, Duck, Duck, Goose (players sit in a circle. IT walks around gently tapping everyone on the head saying “duck.” The person who is it will choose a different player to be it by touching their head as he passes and says “goose.” She will get up and try to tag him before he gets to the empty spot in the circle.
- \_\_\_ Play “Simon Says.” One player is designated Simon and the other players do whatever Simon says as long as he says the phrase “Simon says” before the command. If Simon does not say “Simon says” before the command, the players don’t move. Any player who acts without hearing “Simon says” is out of the game. The winner is the last player left.
- \_\_\_ Play “Mother May I.” One player stands far away from the others and is the “mother” while all of the other players stand in a group. Mother calls the name of one of the player and says “(insert name here), you may take (insert numbers) steps.” The player then must remember to say “Mother may I?” before moving the allotted number of steps. Mother will either answer “yes” or “no.” If the player fails to ask and takes a step without permission or moves prior to Mother’s response she must go back to the starting line. The first to reach Mother wins and is the new mother. Mother can also call out the types of steps being called (i.e., baby steps, giant steps).



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- \_\_\_ Play “Sound Search.” Everyone sits still and identifies as many different sounds as possible.
- \_\_\_ Play “Red Rover.” Separate everyone into two equal teams. Have each team stand in a straight line, holding hands. The two teams should be facing each other, about ten yards apart. Team A decides who to “call over” from Team B and they chant, “Red Rover, Red Rover, we call (name) over!” The player from Team B who was called must run to Team A and try to break through the arms of the other team. If the person breaks through the line, they add to that team’s chain. Continue playing until one team only has two people.
- \_\_\_ Play “Wheelbarrow Races.” Partner up and have teams of two line up at a starting line. One partner faces the finish line and places his/her hands on the ground and feet in their partner’s hands. At a signal to start, the teams walk to the finish line this way. The first team to cross the finish line wins.
- \_\_\_ Play “Marco Polo” on land. One player is IT and is blindfolded and spun around couple of times. IT closes his/her eyes and counts to 20 to allow other players time to move away and hide. The players stop where they are when IT reaches 20 and stay in those positions until the end of the game. IT yells out “Marco” and the players have to respond with “Polo.” IT uses these responses to find the other players. As the other players are tagged, they are eliminated from the game. The winner is the last person standing who has not been tagged.
- \_\_\_ Play “Follow the Leader.” Players line up and walk behind the leader, copying whatever the leader does.
- \_\_\_ Play “Charades.” One person (or team) acts out a movie, book, or TV show using only body language while others try to guess what she is acting out.
- \_\_\_ Play “Encore.” Assign common words to two teams who take turns trying to think of a song that contains each word. Each team must be able to sing at least eight words of the song in order for the turn to count.
- \_\_\_ Play “20 Guesses.” Think of a noun, cartoon character, singer, movie, book, television show, or sports star. Have the players take turns guessing what IT is thinking. Answer the guesses with yes, no, sometimes, usually, or rarely. When the 20 guesses are up, the players get a final guess. If no one answers correctly, the answer is given.
- \_\_\_ Play “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” Two people move their fists up and down three times while saying together “rock, paper, scissors.” On the fourth downward motion each person chooses a gesture:
  - \* Rock: a closed fist
  - \* Paper: a flat, open hand
  - \* Scissors: index and middle finger extended out to look like scissors
  - \* Winning: Rock smashes scissors, scissors cut paper, paper covers rock.
- \_\_\_ Exercise. Take a walk, do a dance, do yoga, stretch.
- \_\_\_ Go outside at night and point out different constellations.

Red Rover ... Red Rover ... Let Sally Come Over ...

