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Ten Easy Steps to Great Kids Party Games

By Patricia B. Jensen

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One of the most important elements of any kids birthday party is the time spent playing party games. If well planned, they can make great memories for the birthday child and guests alike; if not, they can be a minefield of problems. Don't despair! A little forethought and common sense are all that's needed to make your game time a smashing success!

Follow these ten easy steps to great kids party games:

1. Group together at least six to eight appropriate party games then adjust down according to your party timetable. Remember it's better to have more activities planned than not enough.
2. Run through each game to iron out any glitches that might arise. The party child will be only too happy to help with this and get a sneak preview of the party agenda in the process!
3. Enlist other adults as helpers so things will run smoothly and stress-free. You can promise to reciprocate when their child's birthday rolls around!
4. Ages and abilities of your party guests should be considered when choosing your party activities. A five year old won't be capable of playing charades, but he can probably pop a balloon with his bottom to get the prize inside!
5. Timing is everything! Start your party with an icebreaker game while guests are arriving and end with a quiet game to help kids wind down from all the party excitement.
6. Gather materials you'll need for each party game in advance and place them in the pre-selected kid-safe location. Pin the Tail on the Donkey just isn't the same when you've forgotten the blindfold!

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7. Arbitrate – adult leaders should understand the rules of the games and gently enforce them. Kids have a strong sense of what's fair and will look to the adults to keep everyone playing by the rules.

8. Make sure each child gets a prize for his or her efforts so everyone feels like a winner. Wrapped candy, stickers, erasers, pencils, coins, medals and other small tokens make great prize incentives.

9. Encouragement and enthusiasm keep guests motivated and happy. For a fun twist, change the rules of the game and give a prize not only to the first player, but to the last one, saying it was the secret plan of the game.

10. Success! Congratulate yourself on a job well done! When your pooped party guests go home to Mom and Dad, this is the part they'll talk about the most!

By taking the first letter of each of the ten steps above, you can spell out what you will accomplish when you follow this guideline: GREAT GAMES!

Patricia B. Jensen is a mother of three and kids party enthusiast. She is the webmaster and owner of – a comprehensive resource for kids party ideas and complete party plans for

many popular themes, including invitations, cakes, decorations, games, costumes, favors, and food.

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where great kids parties are "a piece of cake"!

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Enjoyable Halloween Party Games

By Beverly Kane

Kids love many things about Halloween parties. The candy and dressing up are right at the top of the list. Party games rank pretty high on the list too for all kids love to play Halloween games especially since the winners usually get a prize.

If you are in charge of planning the Halloween party, the first thing you need to consider is the age of your guests. If you are in charge of very young children then you should pick simple Halloween games that don't require much of an attention span. Pin the tail on the donkey and hot potato come to mind and are fun for kids of all ages, so you can adapt this for Halloween by playing pin the tail on the skeleton. Another fun game for kids to fill balloons with air and have them try and pop the balloons by sitting on them. It isn't as easy as it sounds and usually results in lots of laughs.

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Kids that are a little older love to play treasure hunt or scavenger hunt. For this, you simply hide items in your house and give them a list of clues that lead to the objects. Whoever finds them all first wins a prize. This will help to keep the kids busy while you tend to the party or watch over little ones. Hide Halloween related objects in semi-scary locations such as under a big stuffed spider to make it more exciting for the brave older kids.

For the adults you might consider Halloween games of charades or card games. This is a fun way for them to socialize and relieve stress at your party.

Halloween games will help keep your party moving and keep your guests engaged. The adults will appreciate having something entertaining to do and the little ones will get a thrill out of winning a prize.

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