

Parachute Activities

Using a parachute is a really good, fun way of developing children's personal and social skills. Parachute games encourage cooperative, non-competitive play and reinforce turn-taking and sharing, and many of the games involve vigorous activity.

Parachute games can be used in a variety of ways including other curriculum areas i.e. language development – promoting listening to and following instructions, numeracy – counting and addition, science – air movement.

Weather Forecast

- Class holds parachute at waist height. Call out various weather conditions which children simulate with parachute.
- Sunny – pull chute taut, everyone leans back and pulls with bent arms
- Rain – tap fingers on the chute while it is taut
- Breeze – shake chute gently
- Storm – shake chute vigorously

Umbrella

- Begin with parachute on the floor. Class bends and holds chute but do not lift off floor.
- On signal everyone stands up and lifts the chute of the floor raising arms as high as possible.
- Parachute should look like an umbrella.

Under the Umbrella

- Use colours that children are holding onto. When colour is called, children holding that colour swap with others on same colour. Others lift chute up to make umbrella. The object is to complete the task as fast as possible without being touched by the parachute.
- Other task examples: high five others under parachute and go back to space, shake hands with one other and go back to space, number off children and use for addition etc.



Cat and Mouse

- All children sit on ground around edge of parachute holding on.
- Pick two children, one cat and one mouse.
- The mouse goes under the parachute and the cat on all fours on top.
- The cat tries to catch the mouse, children outside shake the chute to make it harder to catch the mouse.

Mountain

- Parachute is flat on the floor. Students grab the edges of the chute.
- On signal students lift the parachute as high as possible. They quickly bring the parachute edges down to the floor and try to trap as much air in parachute and keep it in as long as possible. If the mountain is high they should not be able to see people on the other side of the mountain.

Inside the mountain

- This is done like the mountain, but when the students bring the sides down they step under the parachute and bring it down so that they are inside. Remind students to keep edges on floor as long as possible to see how long the mountain stays up.

Crocodiles

- Group sits on floor with legs out in front holding onto the edge of the parachute. Their legs are under the chute.
- One person is chosen as the crocodile and goes under the parachute, the rest make little waves so the crocodile cannot be spotted (No peeking under the chute) the crocodile grabs the leg of a victim and pulls them under the chute. The crocodile then takes that persons place and the new crocodile looks for another victim.



Popcorn

- Children hold parachute at waist height. Put bean bags or tennis balls on parachute and get children to start “heating’ the popcorn slowly, gradually the pot gets hotter and the popcorn starts popping, try to pop it all out of the pop (parachute)

Popcorn Games

- Divide class into two, with half on each side of the parachute. Get students to start shaking the parachute and thro a ball into the middle. Each team tries to make the ball bounce onto the other side. Students cannot use hands to stop ball going out.

Sharks

- Group sits on floor with legs out in front holding onto the edge of the parachute. Their legs are under the chute.
- One person is picked to be the shark that goes under the parachute.
- Children around the outside row (shake the chute) to get away from the shark. The shark grabs victims and pulls them under the parachute, that person becomes a shark and the game continues until there is only one rower left.

See-saw Pull

- From a sitting position, have children pull the chute back and forth in a see-sawing motion.

Merry Go Round

- Have each child hold the parachute in one hand, extending the opposite arm out for balance. Run around in one direction, then change and run in other direction.

Big Turtle

- Have the children on their hands and knees under a large “turtle shell” (chute), and try to make the turtle move in one direction.
- Variation: The turtle has to go over an obstacle without losing its shell

