



RIGHT TO PLAY



Everyday Play

SIMPLE GAMES FOR HOME AND SCHOOL



Welcome to the Power of Play



At Right To Play, we've spent over 25 years harnessing something simple, yet profoundly transformative: **play**.

The activities in this resource are all games that Right To Play-trained teachers, coaches, and parents use every day to help connect with children in their language and on their level. Whether you have five minutes or a full afternoon, we hope that you and the children in your life create wonderful memories, deepen your bond, and discover the joy of learning together.



In classrooms, playgrounds, living rooms, or community centres, play helps children make sense of the world around them. It sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and nurtures the social and emotional skills children need to thrive. It's how they learn, connect, and grow, especially in times of change or uncertainty.

As teachers, parents, and caregivers, you already know the value of keeping children engaged. You see the difference when a child lights up with an idea, collaborates with a peer, or takes pride in solving a problem. That's why we created this resource; to support you in doing what you do best: creating joyful, safe, and meaningful learning moments every day.

THIS RESOURCE CAN REMIND US ALL THAT PLAY IS MORE THAN FUN. IT'S FOUNDATIONAL.



**CHECK
OUT OUR
GAMES ON
PAGES 4-7**

A Day Dedicated to Play



The International Day of Play is a day for people of all ages to play together and celebrate the power play has to erase divisions, build trust and connection, and inspire curiosity and creativity.

Right To Play is a global organization that protects, educates, and empowers children to rise above adversity using the power of play. We reach millions of children each year in some of the most difficult places on earth, helping them to stay in school and learn, overcome prejudice, heal from trauma, and develop the skills they need to thrive. We do this by harnessing play, one of the most fundamental forces in a child's life, to teach children the critical skills they need to dismantle barriers and embrace opportunities, in learning and in life.

We know that play is more than a pastime, it's how children learn to navigate their world with confidence, creativity, and resilience. Whether you're in a classroom, after-school program, or at home, the moments you create through play leave a lasting impact.

This June 11, we invite you to join us in celebrating the International Day of Play. It's a chance to not only honour every child's right to play, but to make space for laughter, learning, and connection in your everyday routine.

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LEARN MORE



United Nations

KITCHEN SYMPHONY



Use this playful music-making activity to encourage children to notice sounds, explore rhythm, and work as a group.



Players: 4-10



Time: 10-15 minutes



Equipment: Household or classroom objects that make sound (e.g. spoons, boxes, pencils)

How to play

- 1** Have the children sit or stand in a circle or semi-circle so everyone can see one another clearly.
- 2** Ask each child to find a nearby object that makes a sound. This could include: tapping a table, shaking a water bottle, clapping hands or snapping fingers, rubbing paper together, humming, whistling, or using their voice (emphasize using what's available, it's about creativity, not perfection!)
- 3** Choose one child to be the conductor. Their role is to guide the group by pointing to each participant one at a time, inviting them to make their chosen sound.
- 4** The conductor begins by pointing to one participant to start making their sound. Then, they slowly point to others one by one, layering the sounds to build a group rhythm. Encourage the conductor to repeat patterns, pause certain sounds, or change the speed for variety. Let the sound build into a "symphony" created entirely by the group!

Reflection Questions:

1. What kind of sounds did you enjoy making the most?
2. How did it feel to lead the group? To follow?

ONCE UPON A TWIST

A collaborative storytelling activity that builds creativity, communication, and listening skills.



Players: 3+



Time: 10-20 minutes



Equipment: None



How to play

- 1** Have all participating children sit or stand in a circle so everyone can see and hear one another easily.
- 2** Choose one child to begin the story with a fun, open-ended sentence. Encourage imaginative beginnings like:
“One day, a dragon moved into our classroom...”
“In the middle of the night, the crayons in my backpack came to life...”
- 3** Going clockwise around the circle, each child adds one sentence to continue the story. Remind them to listen carefully so their sentence connects to what came before.
- 4** Let them be as silly, adventurous, or dramatic as they want – there are no wrong ideas! The goal is for the story to grow in unexpected and entertaining directions.
- 5** Go around the circle once or twice before ending the story with a final sentence or let the story continue until it reaches a natural (or wildly funny) conclusion.

Optional: Write the story down or draw it out afterward as a shared class book or home keepsake.

Reflection Questions:

1. What made the story funny, surprising, or exciting?
2. What did you enjoy about building something together?

PASS THE PICTURE



An imaginative drawing activity that encourages collaboration and visual storytelling.



Players: 4+



Time: 10-15 minutes



Equipment: Large sheet of paper, markers or crayons

How to play

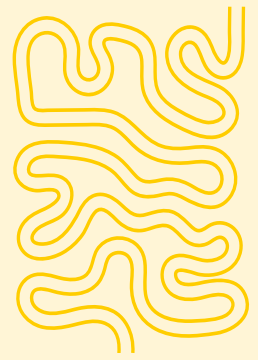
- 1** Use a large sheet of paper or poster board. Set out drawing tools like markers, crayons, or coloured pencils. Have a simple prompt ready to kick things off, such as:
 - “Let’s draw a magical playground”
 - “Design your dream animal”
- 2** Invite the first child to add a small part to the drawing. This could be a character, object, or detail related to the prompt. Remind them to leave room for others to contribute.
- 3** After adding their part, the child passes the drawing to the next person. Each child builds on what’s already there, using their imagination to continue the picture.
- 4** Keep going until every child has added to the drawing. For larger groups, consider doing this in small teams or splitting into multiple rounds.
- 5** Once the drawing is complete, display it for the group to admire. You can even give it a title together or have children describe different parts of the picture.

Optional: Display the final piece or have children describe their additions aloud.

Reflection Questions:

1. What ideas inspired your part of the drawing?
2. How did it feel to create something together without planning every detail?

GUIDED MAZE



A trust-building activity that develops listening, direction-following, and peer support.



Players: 4+ (in pairs)



Time: 20+ minutes



Equipment: Blindfold (or scarf), soft objects for obstacle path

How to play

- 1** Set up a simple obstacle path using safe, soft, and age-appropriate materials such as: chairs to walk around, pillows to step over, cones or toys to weave through, a blanket to crawl under. Make sure the space is clear of hazards and easy to supervise.
- 2** Divide the children into pairs. One child will be the Navigator (the guide), and the other will be the Explorer (the blindfolded partner).
- 3** Gently blindfold the Explorer or ask them to close their eyes tightly (depending on age and comfort level).
- 4** The Navigator uses only clear, calm verbal cues to help their partner move through the maze. They cannot touch or physically guide their partner. Examples: "Take two small steps forward.", "Turn a little to the left." "Step over a pillow."
- 5** Once the Explorer has completed the maze, swap roles and let the other child try being guided through the course.

Adaptation for classrooms: Have two guides and two blindfolded children working at the same time to promote peer collaboration.

Reflection Questions:

1. What helped you feel confident when you couldn't see?
2. How did you make sure your partner felt safe?



RIGHT TO PLAY
PROTECT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.



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