



WET PLAYTIME PACK

10 QUICK GAMES TO PLAY IN THE CLASSROOM



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***Doctor Foster went to Gloucester
In a shower of rain,
He stepped in a puddle,
Right up to his middle,
And never went there again.....***

If only Doctor Foster had known about our wet playtime pack, then maybe he wouldn't have ventured out while it was pouring with rain. He could have stayed indoors in the dry and played games instead!

Rhymes aside, nursery and schoolchildren's breaktimes are often at the mercy of the great British weather, which can be unpredictable, even in the summer. And, of course, it can be particularly wet in April, which is traditionally when the UK experiences its rainiest period, often referred to as 'April showers.'

But no matter how persistent or heavy those rain showers get, there's no reason why children shouldn't still enjoy their breaks, especially when there's a whole wealth of games they can play indoors!

Children thrive on structure and routine, but when the weather's not the best, this routine may slightly change at break and lunchtimes. The important thing is to keep them occupied and distracted from the fact they aren't inside.

That's where these 10 quick games to play in the classroom can help. We hope you find them useful and entertaining and get to use them plenty of times throughout the year, as well as for many years to come...



Jason Eastwood
Managing Director, Canopies UK

THE GAMES

Musical Statues

Put on some music and ask everybody to dance and move around to their heart's desire. When the music stops, they must stop too, in whatever position they find themselves in!

To make the game more challenging, ask everybody to freeze in certain poses, such as animals, letters, or even, yoga poses.

Musical Chairs

Arrange your chairs so they are set up in two rows that are back-to-back. Play music and ask the children to walk around the chairs. When the music stops, they have to sit down on one of the chairs.

Before starting the music, remove one of the chairs. If the music stops and a child can't find a seat to sit down on, they're out of the game. Continue playing until there is just one person left.

Treasure hunt

Children love being asked to find hidden objects, especially if there's a prize at the end. Write your clues on pieces of paper and leave as many of them as you like dotted around. The game can be as short of long as you like, depending on how many treasures you choose to hide!

Hot Potato

Ask everybody to sit on the floor in a circle. Put on some music and ask them to pass the potato (a bean bag or soft ball) around the circle as fast as they can.

When the music stops, the player who's holding the potato will be asked to leave the circle. Keep going until there's only one player left.



The Farmer's in His Den

*The farmer's in his den
The farmer's in his den
Eee-aye-ah-dee-oh
The farmer's in his den*

*The farmer wants a wife
The farmer wants a wife
Eee-aye-ah-dee-oh
The farmer wants a wife*

*The wife wants a child
The wife wants a child
Eee-aye-ah-dee-oh
The wife wants a child*

*The child wants a nurse
The child wants a nurse
Eee-aye-ah-dee-oh
The child wants a nurse*

*The nurse wants a dog
The nurse wants a dog
Eee-aye-ah-dee-oh
The nurse wants a dog*

*The dog wants a bone
The dog wants a bone
Eee-aye-ah-dee-oh
The dog wants a bone*



This is a simple circle game that gets everybody involved. Start by choosing a volunteer 'farmer' and ask everybody to join hands in a circle, as they sing the first verse of the song.

Each verse requires another volunteer, first the farmer chooses a wife, and so on, until there is quite a gathering in the centre of the circle. Finally, everyone finishes the song by patting the bone, or patting the dog, if you prefer.



20 Questions

Choose one person to be 'it.' Ask that person to think of a person, place or thing in their head. Once they've chosen, you can start guessing what it is!

The other players should take it in turns to guess by asking 'yes' or 'no' questions. After each guess, make a note of the number of guesses until the limit of 20 has been reached. If a player guesses before then, they become 'it.' If nobody guesses correctly, then the answer is revealed.

Picnic memory game

This is a really simple and fun memory game. Ask everybody to sit down in a circle. Then the first person in the circle says, 'In my picnic basket I packed...' and then says which item they've packed.

The next player then says, 'In my picnic basket I packed...' and recites what the first player packed and then adds an item to the list. This continues around the circle, with the list of items getting longer and more challenging to remember!

Touch and feel boxes

Sensory activities are always popular, especially among younger children. Find some boxes, such as shoe boxes, or any box with a lid. Cut a hole in one of the sides (it needs to be large enough for children to be able to easily fit their hands inside).

Then place all sorts of 'mystery' objects in the boxes and ask the children to guess what they are.

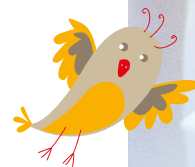
Chinese Whispers

Ask everybody to sit down on the floor in a circle or a line. Whisper a word or phrase into the ear of the first person in the circle or line. They should then whisper what they've heard into the ear of the person to their right.

Each player takes it in turns to whisper to their neighbours until it reaches the last player in the circle/line. What is that word or phrase now?! Is it still the same as when it was first mentioned?

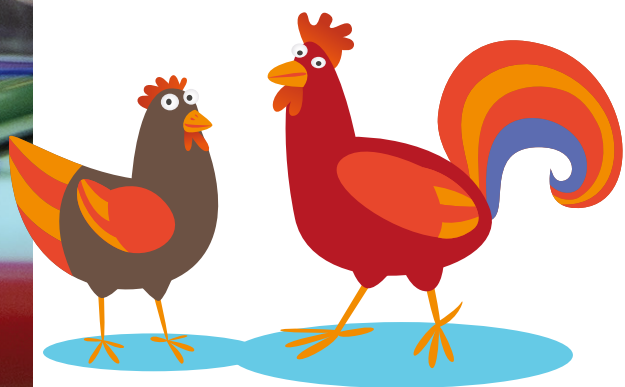
Duck, Duck, Goose

Get everybody to sit down in a circle so that they're facing each other. One person is 'it' and walks around the circle. As they walk around, they tap people's heads and say whether they're a duck or a goose.



Whoever becomes the goose has to get up and try and chase 'it' around the circle. The goal is to tap that person before they sit down in the goose's spot. If the goose can't do this, they become 'it' for the next round and the game continues. If they do tap the 'it' person, then the tagged person must sit in the centre of the circle.

The goose then becomes 'it' for the next round. The person in the middle can't leave until another person is tagged and they are replaced.



YOUR NOTES...

This is a useful little page for you to keep any notes you may want to make along the way, such as ideas for new games, keeping score or counting how many questions have been asked in 20 Questions. Scribble away!



ABOUT CANOPIES UK

Canopies UK is the country's leading designer, manufacturer and installer of high quality canopies. Over the years, it has installed more than 5,000 outdoor canopies and walkways at nurseries and schools across the length and breadth of the country.

Established for more than 25 years, the company employs over 50 staff at its Lancashire headquarters, which incorporates offices, production space and warehousing. Serving a multitude of sectors, including hospitality, education, healthcare and construction, Canopies UK delivers excellence through site-specific calculations and unrivalled product quality.