



Magic for You by Bob

Birthday Party Games

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Musical chairs

Line up alternate facing chairs, one less than the number of children playing. (Eg. If there are 10 players, place 9 chairs). The players move round the chairs while the music is on.

When the music stops they have to sit down on a free chair. The player without a chair is out, take away one chair each time.

Repeat until you have only 2 players and 1 chair. The one to sit down first on the last chair is the winner.

Where's the ball ?

Put a ping-pong or table tennis ball on the edge of a table. A player is blindfolded. He/she stands with his/her back to the table. At the command he/she makes 5 steps forwards, turns around 3 times, comes back to the table and tries to blows the ball off the table.

It's really funny to watch when the players blow the ball off the place the ball has never been.

Grab a toy

Put small toys on the floor. As the music plays everyone walks around the circle, following the leader. When the music stops everyone must grab a toy. The person who hasn't picked a toy is out. The number of toys should be reduced every time. The winner is the person who stays till the end of the play.

Desert Islands

This is similar to musical chairs but played with pieces of paper placed on the floor.

But remember to place one less piece of paper to the number of players. (Eg. If there are 10 players, place 9 pieces of paper)

When the music stops the children have to stand on a piece of paper.

The player not standing on a desert island is out.

Always have one less desert island than players.

The paper (islands) should be colourful and not too small.

GOAL

Put a balloon on the floor, the blindfolded player who is taking the penalty stands about 6-7 steps away from the balloon. Spin the player round 3 times before they kick the balloon towards the goalie. It's fun when the player having made those 6-7 steps kicks the air, because he went in the wrong direction. The winner is the player who kicks the balloon.

BURSTING BALLOONS

The balloon is tied to the left leg of players. The object of the game is to burst a rival's balloon with the right leg. Do not play this game with small children.

WHOSE SHADOW IS THIS ?

Put a white sheet on the wall. One of the players sits down on the chair facing the sheet. At the opposite side of the room there is a lamp on a table. All the players walk between the lamp and the guesser in turn. The guesser must try to identify the others by their shadows as they walk past. The players try to change their shadows. The player who is recognized becomes the guesser.

WHISPERS

The players must whisper a difficult phrase to the last player in the row. Usually when this phrase comes to the last player it is distorted or gets changed.

Do the Opposite !

Have a list of things for the players to do e.g. walk, run, sit down, hop on left foot, wave your right hand, quiet, noisy, stand still, jump up and down, scream, dance etc.

The game is to do the exact opposite to what you are saying.

Gradually remove all those players who get it wrong,

The last player remaining is the winner.

Jigsaws Puzzle

This can be played either as a team game or for individual players.

Cut out pictures from old magazines.

Cut or tear into smaller pieces to form a jigsaw pattern.

Put each into a separate box or bag .The team or player that completes the picture correctly first is the winner.

Musical Bumps

All the players have to run, jump, skip, hop,dance etc. while the music plays,

When the music stops they have to sit on the floor as quickly as possible

The last one to sit down is out. Continue the music until you have a winner.

Guessing game

Collect about 10 boxes before for party, eg shoe box size, cut a hole in the top big enough to put your hand in, cover the boxes label or number them so you know which is which. place a different object in each box.

Blindfold all players, get them to put their hand in the box one by one and guess what they are feeling

Eg: - erasers,cotton wool, toy soldiers, playdough, toy spider, marbles, toothbrush, dinky cars,sugar lumps.

You can further use your imagination and The list can be endless but don't go for anything too messy.

Hoopla

Make a cardboard hoop ring that can easily fit over large cold drink bottles.

Paint or decorate the hoops and the empty bottles,

3 hoops for each player. Put 3 bottles on the floor, and

mark a throwing line on the floor with chalk or stick tape.

Each player takes turns to throw the hoops onto the bottles the one with the highest score is the winner.

In case of tie, a re-match between the players decides the winner.

Musical Statues

All the players have to run around while the music is playing,

When the music stops, the children have to stand as still as a statue for as long as the music is not playing.

The first child who moves is out, repeat until you have a winner.

LAND and WATER

This is a game which calls for attention and is real fun to play. On hearing the word "land" the players jump forward, on hearing the word "water" backward.

Then the word "land" can be suddenly changed into "bank". The actions of the players must be the same as after the word "land" i.e jump forward.

The word "water" may be changed into "sea", "lake", "river", etc. The player who gets it wrong is out.

SPOON RACE

Each player must run a certain distance, holding a spoon with a big potato on. The players run in turn. If the potato falls down, the player must put it in the spoon again and continue to run. To run without a potato in the spoon means to break the rules. The player who covered the distance in the shortest time is the winner. Instead of a potato you can even try a lemon.

Aiming

On cardboard draw or paint a simple dart board with rings and points.

Give each player 3 balls made from plastacine, put a tape on the floor for the throwing line or draw the line with chalk.

The players take turns throwing to the dart board, aiming for the centre (Bulls eye)

The player with the highest score is the winner.

Pinata

This is a game that requires room and good supervision - the children are blindfolded (or not, if they are young and don't want to be) and they take a stick and try to break a hanging container that has candies and other small goodies in it. (Colorful Band-Aids were popular among the preschoolers here!). To make one, you can do something as simple as decorating a paper grocery bag with paints or crepe paper and then gluing and taping the top shut once the treats are inside. Run a string along the top edge before shutting the bag. You can also make a fancier one using a balloon and paper mache. The fun thing is that these can be decorated to match any theme.

Pin the Something on Something

Traditionally pin the tail on the donkey, this game can be changed to fit any theme. In this game, blindfolded guests try to stick a paper 'tail' onto a poster of a donkey. You can take a piece of poster board and draw anything with something missing - a nose on a clown or animal, the TY heart on a beanie baby, a spaceship in an outer space scene, and one year we gave Yoda (Star Wars) his staff. Just be sure to include an outline of where the object needs to land.

Drop the Clothespin Into a Bottle

This is another one that can be turned into a themed activity simply by using a coffee can with a plastic lid on it as the container to catch the clothespins. Cut a hole into the plastic lid appropriate for the age child. Then decorate the can.

Bean Bag Toss

You can make an easy Bean Bag Toss using a double layer of poster board glued together and a large box. Use the large box as a base, and attach the poster board to one side of it. Before attaching the poster board, paint a design on it, allowing for one or more holes. We never kept score, but the kids had a lot of fun throwing those bean bags. One year we even gave bean bags as party favors - they're easy to make from fabric scraps if you sew.

Go on a Treasure Hunt

These are some treasure hunt ideas: You can scatter coins in the lawn and let the kids hunt for them, much like an Easter egg hunt. You can hide each child's goodie bag and then give that child a piece of paper with a hint for finding it - it could be a simple map drawing for a young child, a word or two, or a riddle for older children. You can also let the children do a paper clue based hunt as a group - with the goodie bag for the youngest being the first found, along with the clue to the next goodie bag, and so on.

Make a Bracelet/Necklace

This activity can be an activity the children can go to between other activities, or the main focus. A big bag of pony beads, some elastic cord, scissors and an adult to help when needed, and they can make their own jewelry. Be sure to supervise this one, so that necklaces and bracelets are not made too tight.

Make their Own Place Cards or Placemats

This activity could be as complex or simple as you want - children can decorate 3x5 cards or construction paper with a variety of stickers, cut outs (use an old beanie baby magazine for a source of a hundred or more beanie pictures, a pokemon magazine for pokemon), crayons, and colored pencils. If you have enough help to cover the placemats after they're done with clear contact paper, they will last a long time.

Guess How Many

Fill a jar with candy. Have children write their name on a small piece of paper and their guess as to how many candies are in the jar. The child who guesses the right number, or comes closest, gets a sucker. The candy in the jar is then divided among the children. A variation would be that the winner takes the jar of candy home to share with their family.

Who Am I?

When the children come through the door tape a farm animal or item/object to their backs. Through the course of the party they may ask each other yes and no questions about what they are. Explain that the first question they may want to ask is "Am I an animal or an object?" At the end of the party each child takes a turn saying what they think they are. Suggestions: cow, pig, sheep...pitchfork, saddle, horseshoe, hay, milk, barn, tractor, etc..

Farm Buddies

Is similar to Who Am I?, but this time you whisper in each child's ear a name of a farm animal. Tell them that there is at least one other person that is the same animal as they are. Throughout the party they may ask each other yes and no questions to try to figure out who their "Farm Buddy" is. At the end of the party tell everyone to go sit by who they think their buddy is. Go over the clues with the kids until they figure it out and everyone is sitting next to the correct buddy.

Birthday Dinner

Players sit in a circle. The first player starts by saying, "At my birthday dinner I like to eat hamburgers". The next player must repeat "At my birthday dinner I like to eat hamburger..." and add another dish. This continues all the way around the circle with each player reciting the dishes in the exact order they have been given and then adding a new one. If a player makes a mistake they slide out of the circle and the game continues. The person left who can perfectly recite the birthday dinner menu wins.

Fruit Basket

Put chairs in a circle with one less chair than there are players. One person says, "I'm grateful for people with blue eyes". Everyone with blue eyes stands up and changes places. While everyone's scurrying for a chair a parent takes one away. The person left standing is out and the last person to sit down goes next..."I'm grateful for everyone who's wearing tennis shoes". Repeat.

Button, Button, Who's got the Button

A child is chosen to be "it" and hides her eyes as a button is given to a child to hide in his lap or behind his back. "It" then has three chances to guess which child has the item. (All children hide their hands in their laps/behind their backs like they have it.) For animal themes, select an item that goes with the animal. If you're doing a character theme like Cinderella it would be "Slipper, Slipper, Who's got the Slipper".

Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger hunts are a fun way to entertain kids at birthday parties. Rather than encouraging competitiveness between teams, have children work together to find all the items. Hide items in yard or designated rooms

Duck, Duck, Goose

Whatever the theme, substitute words from the theme for "duck" and "goose." (like "Pika, Pika, CHU" or "Scooby Scooby Scooby DOOO")

Hot Potato

You can use virtually any item for the "potato" for this old favorite. For character parties use a stuffed toy of the character.

Simon Says

For character themes replace "Simon" with a character from the theme. Children should listen carefully and only do what "Simon" says.

Red Rover

Divide players into two teams. Each team forms a line by holding hands and stretching themselves out. The two teams face each other and should be about 25 feet apart or more. Each

side takes turns calling, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send (name) right over." At that signal, the player called, runs from his line and tries to break through the line of his/her opponents. If he breaks through, he can take one opponent back with him to his team. If he does not break through, he joins the other team. The team to add the most players wins.

Charades

Have one child come up to the front of the group and whisper the name of an animal, or something to do with your theme, to them. They then act out what the animal does. The rest of the kids try to guess the name of the animal.

Water Balloon Volleyball

You'll need lots of water balloons stored in a bucket full of water and towels for each pair of children. Divide children into two groups. Pair them off and give each pair a beach towel. One side begins by placing a water balloon in the center of their towel. Each child holds onto one two corners of the towel in their hands. The object is to toss the water balloon over the net with the opposing side catching the balloon in their towel. The volley continues until one side misses and the balloon breaks giving the other team a point. First team to 15 wins.

Variation: If you do not own a volleyball put two sets of pairs a distance apart and have them volley back and forth.

Variation for young children: Instead of beach towels use two large blankets. Divide into teams, each team member holds a part of the blanket. Toss the balloon back and forth between teams. Not too tough with a bit of team work.

Make sure to carefully clean up the balloon remains, as they are choke hazards for young children.

Freeze

Begin by playing music, everyone moves and dances until the music stops then they must "freeze" in whatever position they happen to be in.

Musical Chairs

For character themes based on movies or T.V. shows play music from the program and tape characters on each chair.

Pop-the-Balloon

All the children gather in a circle, holding hands. Everyone moves into the center and on the birthday child's mark begins blowing. The circle expands getting larger and larger until you can no longer hold hands and "POP" everyone falls down laughing. Toddlers and young children love it!!! child grab a balloon at the same time and try to pop it.

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Balloon Bust Relay

Purchase large balloons, stuff with a prize such as a whistle, then inflate and tie. You will need one balloon for each guest. Divide children into two teams and place each team behind the start line. At the other end of the room are the balloons. On your mark a child from each team runs to the other end of the room, grabs a balloon and sits on it, bounces on it, lays on it, anything they can do to make it pop.

When the balloon pops they collect their prize and run back to their teammates. The game continues until every child has retrieved their prize. If one team falls behind parents are allowed to help:D Make sure you've got the movie camera rolling, you won't want to miss the action or the

expressions. If you don't have time for a relay yell, "GO" and let every child grab a balloon at the same time and try to pop it.

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Wits and Consequences

Blow up balloons with questions, written on strips of paper, inside and place balloons in Bag "A". Let each guest reach in and pull out a balloon on their turn. If they answer correctly they stay in the game for another 'round, if they answer incorrectly they pull a balloon out of Bag "B", pop it and have to do what it says... "Rub your tummy and pat your head at the same time", "Strut and cluck like a chicken three times". If they complete their task they can return to the game. If not they can cheer on the remaining players. When all the questions have been answered the games over.

Make sure to carefully clean up the balloon remains, as they are choke hazards for young children.