

Non-Competitive & Active Games for Preschoolers

Tips for making some traditional games non-competitive:

Musical Chairs

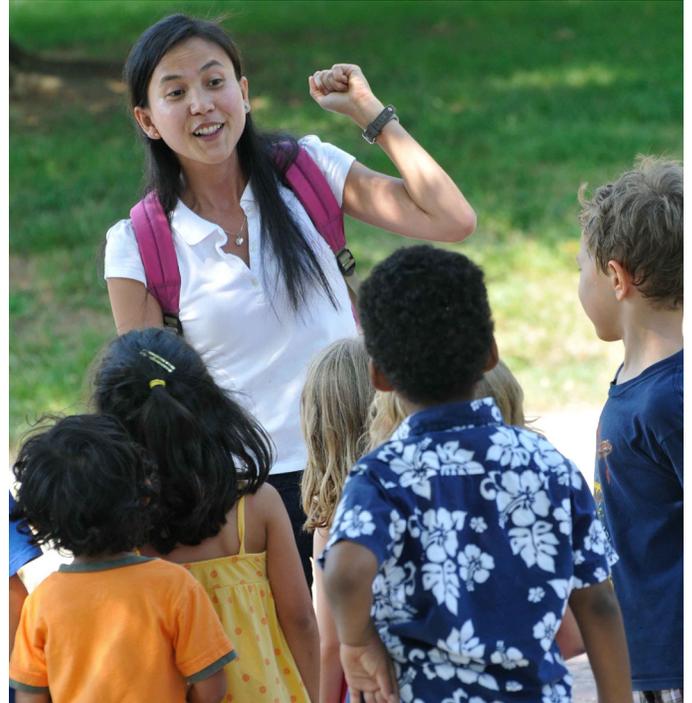
- Have one chair for each child and have them move in different ways (skip, fly, gallop) around the circle. When the music stops, they each sit down.
- Have one less chair than you have children. The child who does not get a seat when the music stops gets to be the one who stops the music next, then returns to the game, replaced by the next child who did not get a seat.

Simon Says

If a child does an action when you do not say "Simon Says," simply point out that Simon did not tell them to do the action, and continue the game without anyone being out. Focus on the children listening carefully, not on winning the game.

Duck, Duck, Goose

Instead of having children sit in the center of the circle if they are caught, have them join the "ducker." When there are more "duckers" than children in the circle, start the game over. Focus on the surprise of being tagged "goose," on running around the circle and quickly getting back to a space to sit down, rather than on winning.



Activities that get children moving without competition:

Sleeping Animals

Call out the name of an animal, such as horse, and have the children move like that animal. When you call out "Nighttime" the children pretend to "go to sleep." When you call out the next animal name, the children get up and move again.

Follow the Leader

In a line, the first child leads the rest until you give a signal to "freeze" or stop. The leader then moves to the end of the line and the next child gets to be the leader. Focus on trying to match what the leader is doing, not on who gets to be the leader.