

Fun and Simple Games to Play with Young Children

Can you remember playing any of these?

Which Container is it under?

Materials Needed: Small toy or ball, two old yogurt containers.

- Place a ball or toy on the floor.
- Cover the ball with one of the containers.
- Put the empty container down also.
- Ask the child to find the ball.



Hide and Seek

Materials Needed: None! (But you may need another big person to help model the game if your child is very young.)

- Ensure you discuss limits and safety boundaries about where it is appropriate to hide in the house
- One big person sits with the child and covers his eyes and counts slowly to ten. The other big person goes and hides.
- After counting, the “seeker” cries, “Ready or not, here I come!” Then that person looks around until he finds the “hider”. Everyone claps and cheers and then you start over.

Hotter/Colder

Materials Needed: One stuffed animal

- One person hides his eyes, while the other hides a stuffed animal.
- When the animal is hidden, have the other person walk slowly around, looking for the toy.
- As she walks farther away from the hiding place, say, “Colder.” As she walks nearer to the hiding place say, “Hotter.”
- When she reaches the hiding spot, shout, “You’re boiling hot!”





What's Missing?

Materials Needed: 4-6 small items; spoon, pencil, toy car, toy animal, block, ball, etc.

- Put the items on the floor in a straight line. Ask the child to say the names of the items out loud, with you, three times.
- Name them from left to right; the same way we read. Now ask your child to hide his eyes.
- Remove one item and hide it in your lap. Say, "Ready! Open your eyes!"
- Ask your child to figure out which toy is missing. You can give hints if needed.
- Make it harder by taking away more than one item or adding more items.

Presented by the York Region Early Literacy Specialists

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