

BOSSY BALL!

What you'll need

- Masking tape
- Playground ball
- Permanent marker

How to play

First, randomly stick 7 to 12 strips of masking tape on a playground ball. On each strip, use a permanent marker to write a different rule for throwing and catching the ball: "Overhead and backward," "Underhand between the legs," "Sitting down," "Standing on one leg," "Eyes closed," "In mid-jump," "While singing," and any others you can think of.



The game is played like regular catch, but once the first player grabs the ball, she must look at the words under or closest to the palm of her right hand. She has to throw the ball as directed by these words -- and the second player has to try to catch it in the same manner. The second player then looks at the words under his right hand, and play continues.

To make the game more challenging, see how many successful catches you can make, and then try to beat your record.

GRAB BAG

What you'll need

- Two brown paper bags
- Slips of paper
- Pencil

How to play

Setup: You'll need a starting line, a designated turnaround point, and two teams (with at least two players per team). Also, two brown bags, slips of paper, and a pencil.

On the slips, write instructions: "Hop to the tree and back," "Run to the slide, go down, and run back," "Do 25 jumping jacks." Make two of each instruction (so that the teams will have identical sets). Put one in each bag. Each bag should have one slip per player.

To play: The first player on each team pulls a slip from the bag, performs the action, and tags the next player, who does the same.

The first team to finish all the actions wins.

PAPER AIRPLANE DERBY



Have a paper airplane derby. You'll find free patterns for simple to fancy planes, helicopters, rockets, frisbees and more at: <http://www.paperairplanes.co.uk>

This is also a fun way to reuse old colouring pages, worksheets, scrapbooking paper and even maps.

Paper Toys

Templates for planes, trains and automobiles, and much more.

www.papertoys.com

SILLY WORD DAY

Have a silly word day. Pick an ordinary word to be the silly word of the day, and anybody who accidentally says that word during the day has to do something silly. For instance, if the silly word of the day is "car" and you forget and say it, you might cluck like a chicken or yodel.



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SNOD Activities

ISSUE 79 TERM 4 2013



GAMES THAT MAKE A SPLASH

Splash Volleyball (Two or more players)

Using a water-filled kiddie pool as the net and a large sponge as the ball, players stand on either side of the pool. Taking turns serving, they volley the sponge back and forth over the pool. If it hits the ground, the player on the opposite side gets a point. If it lands in the pool, the player who last touched it loses a point and has to enter the pool to retrieve it (and ring it out) to resume play. The first to earn ten points wins.

Freezing-Water Tag (Three or more players)

In this icy take on traditional tag, each player is given a spray bottle filled with ice water, and hand tagging is replaced with a cool squirt. When a player is misted, he must freeze, but he can squirt others still in play. The last player to remain unfrozen wins.



Beach Towel Toss (Four or more players)

Make several water balloons. Divide players into teams of two and provide each team with a large towel. Holding their towel at the corners and standing six feet apart, each team must use the towel to toss a balloon back and forth with another team. After a successful toss, have the teams move farther apart. Play continues until the balloon breaks.

Back-to-back Balloon Dash (Four or more players)

Players choose partners, then stand back-to-back, arms interlocked, at the starting line. Place a water balloon between each pair. At "Go," teams race to cross the finish line without breaking the balloon. The first to do so wins.



The Piñaqua

This is an adaptation of a birthday party game. On the hottest days of the season, nothing beats a water-filled piñata slung over the branch of a tree. A dentist's dream, this candy-free version will flood your kids with fun -- and a generous amount of cold water.

By Jodi Picoult

Cost:

About \$4.50

What you'll need

- Medium-sized rubbish bag (we used a clear, 40 litre bag)
- Water
- Rope
- Tree limb
- Bandanna or scarf
- Broom

How to play

Using your backyard hose, fill a medium-sized plastic rubbish bag with 4 to 8 litres of water. Knot the top of the bag. Tie one end of the rope tightly beneath the knot. Toss the free end of the rope over a tree branch or jungle gym.

To play, each child takes a turn getting blindfolded, getting spun around three times, and then taking three whacks at the piñaqua with the broom. The winner is the one who manages to break the bag and unleash the tidal wave.

Fill 'Er Up!

Divide the group into teams of two. Have teammates stand six feet from one another, one holding a small cup with a Ping-Pong ball in it and the other a water-filled spray bottle. On "go," players with bottles try to be the first to squirt enough water into their teammate's cup to float out the ball. Keep a bucket of water nearby for refilling. If teammates get closer than six feet, they must dump out the water in the cup and start over.

Bubble Brigade

Try not to burst anyone's bubble in this sudsy race.

What you'll need

Bubble solution and a wand for each player

How to play

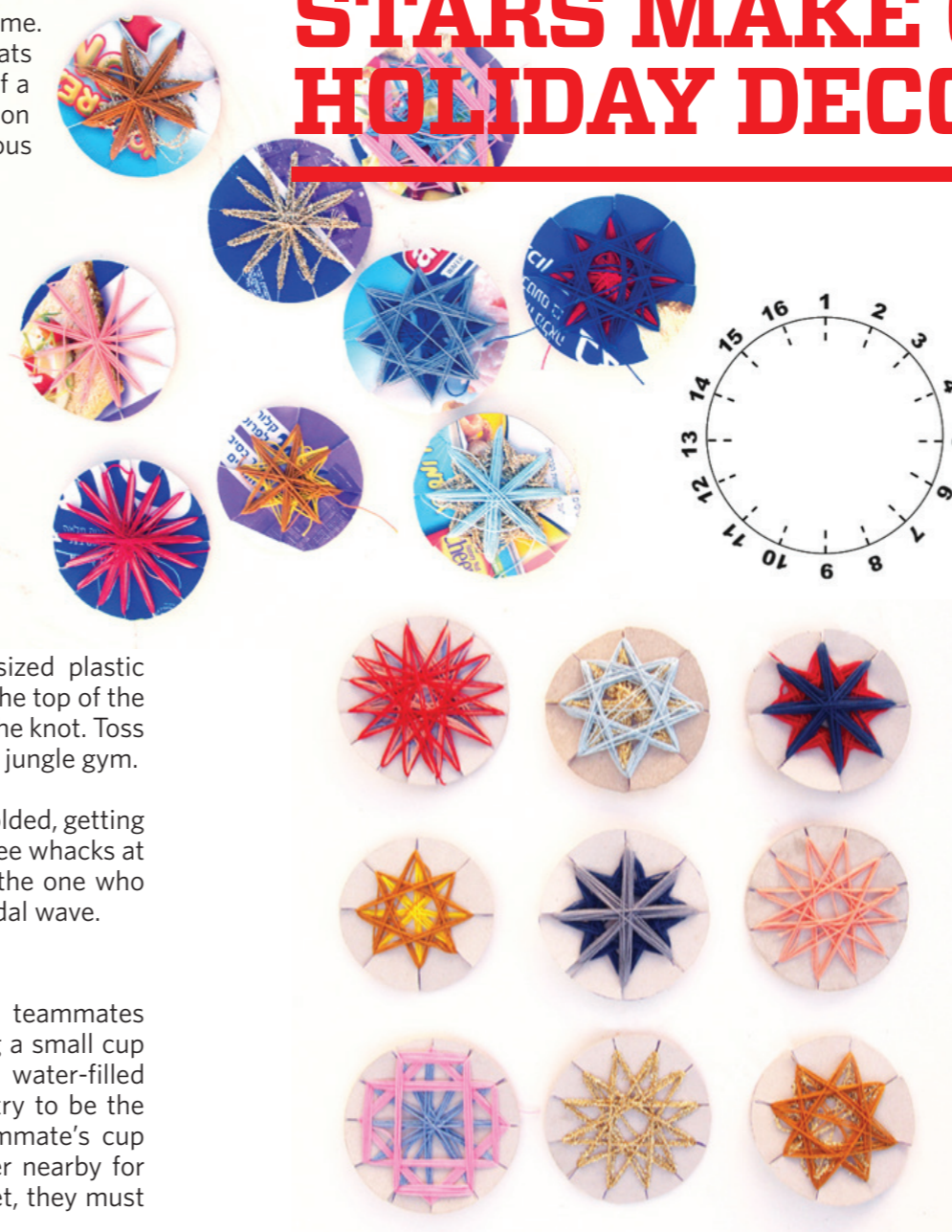
You'll need a starting line, a designated turnaround point, and two teams (with at least two players per team). Also, bubble solution and a wand for each player.

Each team lines up, shoulder-to-shoulder. The first person on each team blows a bubble and catches it on her wand. She then passes it to the next player, who passes it to the next, and so on. If the bubble pops, the person passing it must blow another bubble and then pass it on.

The first team to get a bubble to the end of its line wins.



GEOMETRIC STRING CRAFT STARS MAKE GORGEOUS HOLIDAY DECORATIONS!



Use recycled cardboard from food packaging, so the other side looks like this (above) though if one want to make hanging two sided ornaments, just use plain cardboard.

The patterns are different on either side, making the project that much more interesting!

You'll Need:

- Cardboard, recycled preferably
- A circular punch or something round to trace, a mug, a glass etc.
- Heavy thread, string or wool, depending on the size of your circles,
- Scissors

How To:

1. Cut out circles.
2. Cut slits in circle either 8 or 16 evenly spaced. If you're planning to do a bunch, make one circle with slits perfectly placed and then use that as a guide for other circles.
3. Now it's time to have some fun. With the end on the back side insert string into slit 1 and bring down to slit 9. Carry string across the back and insert into slit 2. Bring string across the front and insert into slit 10. Carry string across the back and insert into slit 3. Continue working in this fashion until you've gone around the circle at least twice. Turn you circle over to reveal, ta da, a beautiful geometric star, like the metallic gold one in the top photo.
4. To create the star seen in the exact middle, turn circle over and repeat above steps with a second colour. There are so many designs one can create!