

Game Time

- 1 Game time is definitely one of the best attractions for any kid's club. It not only helps the children have such a great time that they want to come back the next day, but it also draws in new kids who see what's going on.
- 2 ***“The secret for super recreation is planning and props!”***
Actually, it's the props, or equipment, that is the more important of the two.
- 3 **Buy equipment!** Lots of balls! All kinds of balls: soccer balls, footballs, nerf balls, ping pong balls, beach balls, kick balls, etc.. Bring other things like: bandanas, balloons, hats, hula hoops, ropes, clothes pins, large plastic spoons, water guns, coffee cans, bean bags, broomsticks, sheets, pillowcases and whatever else can be made into a game.
- 4 Go to a dollar store for prop ideas.
- 5 Plastic cones, pylons or marker flags for marking out game courses or race boundaries.
- 6 Use a whistle. Instruct the children what to do when they hear the whistle blown.
- 7 Learn to play all kinds of races! Relay races, foot races, backward races, hopping races, three-legged races, carry the ping pong ball in the spoon races, blindfold piggy-back races, etc... The imagination is limitless when it comes to playing relay races.
- 8 Never, Never play: Duck-Duck-Goose! - Freeze-Tag! -Red-Rover! (I remember a church where a non-church member child hit his head hard and died at a VBS while playing red-rover!) Don't play these three games, be creative! Make up games! The kid's will be glad you did.
- 9 Try to come up with three to five games for each day. Try not to repeat any of the games unless the children beg you too. Write the games on an index card that the leaders can refer to during game time.
- 10 Sometimes, a planned game doesn't go as planned. You should recognize this and quickly switch to a new game. Try to fill up the entire time slot with games. Have a card with several back up games in case the time runs longer than you planned.
- 11 Don't expect the younger children to play the same games as the older ones. Prepare a separate card with age appropriate games for each age group.
- 12 Always try to do recreation outside as it is an excellent form of advertising. Crowds of kids attract more kids.

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- 13 Be prepared for an alternate plan in case of bad weather. Have a separate index card ready with some indoor games. Hopefully you may never need them, but you'll be a genius if you do!
- 14 A water day is a great attraction, like: "**Wet-N-Wild Wednesday!**" - homemade slip-n-slide, water balloons, water guns and other water games. The kids came in swim clothes and had a blast! This is an excellent use of creativity. It attracts new kids and is great for promotion. (Hint: to make a slip-n-slide, buy sheet plastic (from Wal-Mart for about \$8), some tent stakes to anchor it to the grass and some glycerin or baby oil. The glycerin really makes the plastic slippery! Don't use soap, as it burns eyes. **WARNING:** don't let kids run on the plastic as they will slip and could hit their heads hard!)
- 15 Zip lock baggies make great "water balloons" or "bean bags." Use them with other things like colored water, jell-o, sand, or shaving cream.
- 16 Plan to separate the older kids from the younger. Let the younger do crafts or something while the older play games (and vise-verse).
- 17 It is nice to have some active Christian music playing during game time. However, be considerate of the neighbors. (You can also use the music as part of your game time - like musical chairs or tag)
- 18 If you can find an old parachute or super huge beach ball, they can be incorporated into unique games that also attract a lot of attention.
- 19 "The Outrageous Olympics" or "Absurd Obstacle Course" can also be advertised to draw in children.
- 20 Try to set up cones or props in the recreation area. Use ropes with bandanas, flags or streamers to make it look festive. Helium balloons are also great lures for children.
- 21 Always provide water after recreation time. Kid's always get thirsty and you don't want to break into your snack time juice.