

Christmas

Christmas Parties

The following games are intended for school Christmas parties. However if you are having a party at home for children many of these games can be played

Party Hats- a creative, cheap and fun activity is to provide the children with some sheets of newspaper, scissors (or they could just tear) and sellotape or glue.

The children can design their own party hat using just the newspaper and the most creative design could win a prize

Place mats- provide each child with a rectangular piece of coloured sugar paper for their place mat. They put their name in the middle and then draw a Christmas theme on the rest of the mat. If possible the whole school and or sets of classes put their tables together and the mats are mixed up so that the children are sitting next to others from different classes when they eat their Christmas tea.

Party Games

There are the obvious musical chairs, musical bumps, musical statues and pass the parcel. In addition these games are very popular with children

Eat the chocolate

You will need:

hat, gloves scarf plate knife fork 2
dice

a bar of chocolate (preferably having been in the fridge for the morning)

The children sit in a circle and in the middle of the circle are the hat, gloves, and scarf (you can add more items of clothing if you wish). The plate with the chocolate on is also in the middle with the knife and fork. The children take it in turns to throw the dice and pass them on to the next person in the circle. As soon as someone throws a double six they run to the middle, put on the clothes and then start to cut up and eat the chocolate (this must be one section at a time).

Meanwhile the other children continue to throw the dice until the next double six is thrown and that child changes places with the child already in the middle. The game continues until the chocolate has been eaten.

Spin the bottle

Before the party each child writes a dare on a small piece of paper and these are checked by the teacher to ensure that no one is upset by the suggestions. The children sit in a circle with a bottle in the middle. The teacher spins a bottle and whoever it points to when it stops, chooses a dare. The dares could range from reciting a nursery rhyme standing on one leg, impersonating a chicken laying an egg to telling the headteacher that they love them!

Standing on the Newspaper

Each child starts by standing on with one piece of newspaper. The next time they have to fold the paper in half and stand on it and each time they fold the paper in half again. The children are out if they fall off the paper. The last one left balancing on the paper is the winner.

"Seven Up".

Choose seven people to be "it." The rest of the children space out on the floor or sit at their tables and everyone closes their eyes and puts their heads down on the desk, thumb up in the air. Each of the seven moves quietly around the room and touch a thumb whilst saying "touched you". When all 7 return to the front of the class the teacher announces "Seven UP" and everyone whose thumb

was tagged must guess which person tagged them. If they guess correctly, they replace that person. To make it more fun the children disguise their voices and the teacher can decide how the children will say "Touched You." For example in a happy, frightened, ghostly, teacher's etc, voice,

Pin the Nose on Rudolph

Along the same lines as "Pin the Tail on the Donkey", Draw a picture of a reindeer on a piece of card. Use a red paper circle as Rudolph's nose. Blindfold each child as his/her turn arrives, spin, point them in the right direction and wait for the laughter

Santa's Getting Ready for Christmas

Divide the class into equal teams (the amount will depend on the size of the class and accessories you have at your disposal). Place the children in lines at the start and at the end of the course place a bag of presents (these can be stuffed with toys) on a chair. Put all of Santa's clothes at the start line next to the first person in each team. At the signal to begin, the first player on each team quickly puts the first piece of clothing on runs to the end of the course, around the chair and back to the start line. The next player then helps the first player remove that item of clothing puts it on and adds one more item. They then run around the chair and back and this is repeated until the last person runs to the end, retrieves the sack and runs back to their team. The first team to complete the course wins. Suggested clothing could be: a Santa hat, large T-shirt, cushion for stuffing the tummy, big black boots. You can always add to the clothing according to how many are in each team and their ages. E.g. a pair of gloves and a belt could also be included.

Christmas Charades

Before the party write 30 Christmas words such as, mistletoe, Santa, chimney, North Pole, on slips on paper and place in a bowl. Set up an easel with paper and colored pencils. During the party divide the children into two teams and have them compete against each other at charades. For older children they could be asked to mime Christmas songs and carols

Snowball Race

You'll need:

White polystyrene balls or balls covered in white cotton wool

Spoons and mittens for each team

Each team lines up at the start line with a bucket at the other end of the room facing them. Put one pair of gloves a spoon and some snowballs (the amount of snowballs will vary according to the amount of children in the team). Play this game as you would any relay race: divide into teams. Each player takes turns putting on gloves and balancing a "snowball" on a spoon while racing to the other side of the room. They drop the snowball into the bucket, return to the team, pass the gloves to the next person in their team and go to the back of the line. The first team to complete the race wins!

Santa Says

The same idea as Simon says but with Santa instead. The activities could be linked to Christmas. For example Santa says hang up your stocking, decorate the tree...

On Christmas Eve

Players sit in a circle.

The first player says, "On Christmas Eve Santa got on his sleigh and took (something starting with A)". E.g. an art set

The next player repeats the first object and adds an object beginning with B e.g. "On Christmas Eve Santa got on his sleigh and took an art set and a ball. Continue the game through the alphabet. If there are more players than 26 letters...start again at "A". Alternately divide the class into two groups. You may wish to seat the children according to those that may find memory games difficult.