

EARTHKEEPERS

Games

The following games and activities were developed to work alongside the daily themes. We have given multiple options from which you can choose. Some will work better with different age groups.

Cooperation

We have particularly emphasized cooperative games over competitive ones. Caring for creation requires that people work together in creative ways to solve difficult problems. You can emphasize this connection as you describe or debrief games.

Experiment and Adapt

Feel free to adapt the games as you see fit. You may want to have your leaders try playing these games themselves before the VBS starts to see how they work (just don't have too much fun!).

Indoor and Outdoor

We have included games that can work indoors as well as those that require an outdoor or gym-like space. We encourage you to play all of the games in an outdoor space where the children can also experience nature, if possible.

Beach Balls

We have chosen numerous games and activities that use beach balls, in part to simplify the materials you would need to procure. Preferably, they would be at least 16 inches in diameter to work well for the various games.

Beach balls with an earth globe design would help to reinforce the week's theme. Here are some examples:

- <http://amzn.to/1Ozb3H6>
- <http://amzn.to/1Zu6PFW>

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SAMPLE - DO NOT REPRODUCE

Multitask Race

Outdoor/Gym Game

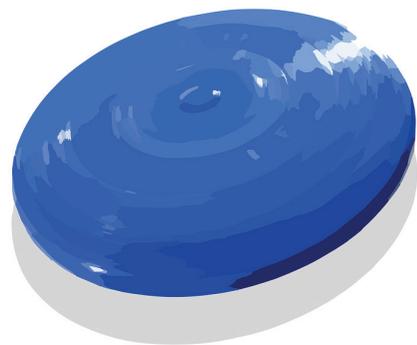
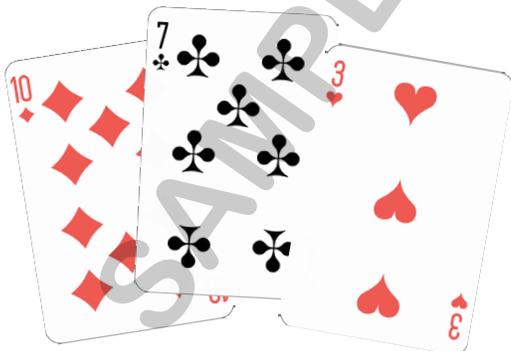
Players work cooperatively to complete tasks together.

What You Need

- Buckets
- Playing cards (one suit only, Ace through King)
- Tennis balls, six of one color and six of another color
- Blindfolds
- Several small frisbees of different colors
- Small ball or toy
- Large spoon
- Start/finish line
- Other ideas or supplies can be used... just use your imagination!

What to Do

1. Set up as many stations as you want, each with a task that players can't do alone and require one or more other players to cooperate. Divide the participants into groups of two to four.
2. You may choose to organize this as a race, or simply as a set of tasks for each group to accomplish together. After every group has finished if you have more time let the groups strategize and plan how to improve before starting a second round.



Station Ideas

- **Cards:** Shuffle the suit of cards and place them face down. One player is blindfolded and has the task of putting them into sequential order as fast as possible. The only player who can touch the cards is the one blindfolded, and no one else may physically touch the blindfolded person.
- **Tennis balls:** Place all the balls together at one end of the playing area and place the bucket at the opposite end. The object of the game is to get all the balls into the bucket as quickly as possible. One color of balls can be touched, the other can't be touched by any player directly or by a player's clothing.
- **Frisbees:** Put all the frisbees far from the bucket. The object is to get all the frisbees into the bucket with each player only touching each Frisbee once. When a player is touching a frisbee, his/her feet cannot move.
- **Toy and spoon:** Place a small ball or toy and a large spoon far from a bucket. One player is blindfolded and is the only one who can touch the spoon as he/she tries to get the toy into the bucket. No one can touch the blindfolded person and only the spoon can touch the toy.

Feeding Experiment

Indoor or Outdoor Game, at snack time

A fun exercise in cooperation and non-verbal communication in which kids feed each other.

What You Need

- **The day's snack**
- **Napkins** (cloth napkins are preferred over disposable ones)

What to Do

1. The rules are simple: there is no talking or verbal communication and no one may feed themselves, only others.
2. You may want to divide larger groups into smaller circles of 4-6 participants grouped around their snacks. Emphasize that it is also an exercise in eating only what you need, rather than "pigging out" and eating because there is more food available.
3. Participants will have to experiment with how to communicate to others that they have had enough and are done eating. Pay attention to any obvious food wasting and point it out.

Floor Volleyball

Indoor or Outdoor Game

A tamer version of volleyball.

What You Need

- **Inflatable beach balls.** You will need one ball per game.
- **A row of chairs.**

What to Do

1. Set up a row of chairs.
2. Divide kids into two teams of five to ten players. Set up multiple games if you have a larger group size.
3. Have the kids sit on the floor, with one team on each side of the row of chairs. Mark the bounds of the court somehow on each side.
4. Play is generally like volleyball, but players can't stand up or spike the ball. They can toss the ball over the row of chairs and try to win points by getting it to touch the ground on the opposite side.