

Parachute games - Collaboration

EXPLANATION:

Games that involve the use of a parachute develop a range of children's skills and attributes. Most importantly, parachute games develop team-building skills, which help the child to communicate with others, socialise, problem solve and make build friendships. Enhancing collaboration skills will support young children's relationship building and feelings of belonging.

YEAR LEVELS: Prior to school

STUDENT GROUPING: Can be whole or small group – outdoors or indoors

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 15 – 20 mins

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation

Learning Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.

Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.

Learning Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

5.1 Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.

SCOPE OF TASK

Some notes about collaboration: Learning to work as part of a team is important for young children supporting the development of many social skills, such as patience, empathy, communication, respect for others, compromise and perspective. It also helps them

build confidence and trust in other people. When collaborating children have the chance to communicate with each other and work towards a common goal.

1. Explore with the children the concept of collaboration and teamwork. If needed, introduce vocabulary: collaboration, teamwork, team, together etc. Ask children questions to determine their prior knowledge:

- How do you work together with your friends?
- How do you feel when you do things with friends?
- What is teamwork?
- Why is it important to work and play with others?
- What are some ways to be a good team member?

2. Share the details of parachute games with the children: To complete the games children must lift the parachute up and down all together. To ensure the parachute remains off the ground children stand evenly in a circle around a parachute and each hold the edge in front of them. Coordination, communication and collaboration is needed to move the parachute.

Different games that require team work and for children to react together include:

Ball Bungee – A ball is placed in the middle of the parachute and children work together and see how high they can toss the ball into the air.

Over to you, over to me – Place a ball in the middle of the parachute. Children take turns to try and manoeuvre the ball to different members of the team. Once it reaches the chosen child, they select a new child to roll the ball towards.

Treasure under the sea - Place a variety of ‘treasures’ (any items of interest to children) into a box under the parachute. Children move parachute up and down like waves. A child’s name is called out to run under the parachute and retrieve treasure from the box.

Balancing Act - Place tennis balls on top of the parachute while children hold it taut. One child starts a wave action which starts the balls moving. The aim of the game is to keep all the tennis balls on the parachute. It becomes difficult to control the balls when everyone moves the parachute.

Flick it off – Children lift the parachute up and down together with the aim of making balls fly off the parachute. This requires coordination!

3. During group time you can reflect with the children about the parachute games and how they engaged together. Some questions might include:

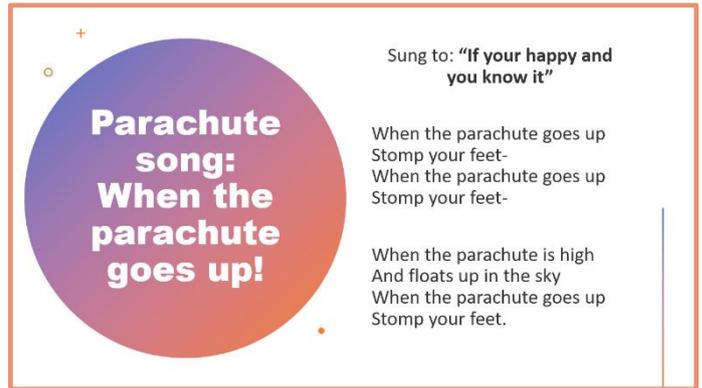
- How did you work together to make the parachute move?
- What happened when you did not work together?
- How did you talk with your friends when playing with the parachute?
- What would make the game work better?
- What would you do different next time you played with the parachute?



- What was the best part of the parachute games?
- Can you think of other times that you work with friends?

Extension:

- You can make this team building game more difficult by using toys rather than balls as they will not roll.
- There are many songs that can be used when using the parachute to build different skills.



**Parachute song:
When the parachute goes up!**

Sung to: **"If your happy and you know it"**

When the parachute goes up
Stomp your feet-
When the parachute goes up
Stomp your feet-

When the parachute is high
And floats up in the sky
When the parachute goes up
Stomp your feet.

RESOURCES

- Parachute
- Balls or toys to be placed on the parachute