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Make Your Own Game

Do you have an idea for a new game or a game you could improve?

What are the rules? What is the aim of the game?

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Play spark

You can create your own rules. Is your game silly or serious? Is it a board game? This one is definitely about the children being in charge!



You might notice...

Rules changing throughout the game. When children get to be in charge they find ways to make a game more pleasing to them. This can be an empowering experience.



Top tips

Games that are very physical often include an element of risk. Taking risks is an important part of child development. Adults can support children to develop their own risk management skills.



What's next...

Games can continue and evolve over days. Perhaps you remember this from your own childhood.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, mastery play, object play, communication play, dramatic play, role play, social play, rough and tumble play, locomotor play, fantasy and imaginative play, symbolic play.

Puppet Show

It's show time!

Make up a story or use one you already know and put on a puppet show.



Play spark

You could make a silly sock puppet by gluing wool and googly eyes onto a sock. You could draw your characters on cardboard, cut them out and then attach them to sticks ready to take the stage.



You might notice...

Children making up their own stories. They might change their voices and facial expressions when performing as different characters. This activity often involves a lot of concentration and an exploration of different emotions.



Top tips

Performing for others is a great way to build confidence. Show them your support and if they ask to perform for you, give them your full attention.



What's next...

You may hear snippets of stories and have ideas about useful materials to extend the play. Don't interrupt the play, simply drop the materials nearby for the children to spot for themselves.



Play types

Creative play, communication play, dramatic play, role play, fantasy and imaginative play.

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Rediscover and Reinvent

Find a toy or game you haven't played with for a while and invent a new way to use it.

You can do this challenge with anything at all – it's up to you!

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Play spark

There are no rules for this challenge. Allow children to take the lead and follow their ideas. This challenge encourages children and adults to look at things in new ways.



You might notice...

What children choose to use and the different ideas they have.



Top tips

By standing back and observing, you will learn a lot about the children and how to support them.



What's next...

Share the children's ideas, some may even develop into new favourite games!



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, object play, communication play, dramatic play, role play, social play, locomotive play, fantasy and imaginative play, recapitulative play, symbolic play.

Things You Can Do Upside Down

Do you ever lie on your back and pretend to walk on the sky or ceiling?

How many upside down ideas and activities can you think of?



Play spark

Can you write your name upside down? What about inventing some interesting new yoga poses?



You might notice...

When playing, children often practise and get good at new skills, and they may not even realise it.



Top tips

Be careful not to get too dizzy – take some right-side up breaks!



What's next...

Did you know that your eyes actually see things upside down? This happens because the front part of the eye is curved and when light reaches your eyes it produces a flipped image on the back of your retina. Your brain is so clever it knows to flip what you see back to the right way up.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, mastery play, communication play, dramatic play, role play, social play, locomotor play, fantasy and imaginative play.

Laser Maze

Use rope, string or wool to create your own maze.

Try to travel through it without triggering the lasers!



Play spark

This challenge could go in different directions depending on children's interests. Some children may be interested in creating the maze; some may enjoy the fun of going through it; others may create fantastical stories.



You might notice...

Children may use fine motor skills to create the maze and gross motor skills to move through it.



Top tips

There is a risk of entanglement, ensure children are supervised and safety scissors are available.



What's next...

You can make this challenge trickier by adding costumes or objects to carry. Follow children's interests – if children have been fascinated by the string, make this resource readily available or add costumes to develop a storyline.



Play types

Creative play, exploratory play, mastery play, object play, dramatic play, role play, social play, locomotor play, fantasy and imaginative play, symbolic play.