Setting up for Fun

Setting up a boundary: Many games will need an area with boundaries. Boundary cones are included to set the parameters of your playing area. You may also use easily identifiable boundaries that already exist in your playing area (for example: the grass area or patio area of your backyard). You may also use designated landmarks such as: the plum tree to the edge of the patio to the fence.

The games are designed to be flexible. They can accommodate different size playing fields and a varying number of players. We recommend larger boundaries for older kids and smaller boundaries for younger kids. The more players, the more space you will need. With 35 players or more, we recommend megaphones or voice amplifiers and assistance managing the group.

Setting up start and Finish lines: Many games use a start and finish line. Use the boundary cones to set up an imaginary starting line and imaginary finish line between the cones.

Setting up an obstacle course: Many games give an opportunity to raise the difficulty level of the game by setting up an obstacle course. You can use trees, outdoor furniture, rope, flags, cones or anything in your environment to create obstacles to crawl under, jump over, or run around to add a new dimension to the game. Make sure to keep the obstacles safe and understandable to the players.
The three types of games

Indoor Games
Outdoor Games
Water Games

Indoor games can be played in a smaller playing area. They can be played indoors or in any type of outdoor or open area. Perfect fun when you are stuck inside on a cold or rainy day!

Outdoor games need more run-around space. They can be played in the backyard, front yard, at a park, the beach or any large open area. They can also be played in very large indoor areas.

Water games are best played outdoors in bathing suits or play clothes. Team players will get wet. You will need access to water to fill the buckets. Make sure it is clean water that can be splashed on the players. Some hard surfaces get slippery when wet. If playing on outdoor tile or any hard surface, pour some water on the hard surface and test it to see if it gets slippery. If it is slippery, choose a different play area.

Let the Games Begin

Indoor Games (IG)

Four’s the Charm.......................................................... Page 8
Number of players: 3 - 6 players
A game of memory and inquisition. Ask for what you want and you just might get it. Listen closely to figure out who has your color. Collect all four beanbags of the same color and win!

Beanbag Match ............................................................ Page 9
Number of players: 3 - 6 players
Which color to keep? Which color to pass? You never know what you’ll get in this game. Capture all four beanbags of the same color and win!

Shot in the Dark .......................................................... Page 10
Number of players: 4 - 30 players
Team building at its finest. Help your team toss the beanbags into the bucket while blindfolded. Yes, blindfolded! It can be done.

Beanbag Hunt ............................................................ Page 11
Number of players: 3 or more
Why wait until Easter to have an egg hunt? Beanbags last all year long.

Guess the Beanbag ....................................................... Page 12
Number of players: 2 or more
A game of memory and concentration. Can you recall the color of the missing beanbag?
Outdoor Games (OG)

**Beanbag Basketball** ................................................................. Page 13
*Number of players: 3 - 6 players*
Everyone's all time favorite! Rip-roaring laughs while you toss beanbags into buckets strapped to the other players' backsides.

**Beanbag Balance** ................................................................. Page 14
*Number of players: 2 - 6 players*
Can you balance a book on your head? How about a beanbag? The one with the best balance will win!

**Beanbag Partners** ................................................................. Page 15
*Number of players: 4 - 12 players (or more)*
Strategize with your partner on how to make a beanbag sandwich and be the first team across the playing field.

**Beanbag Limbo Line** ............................................................. Page 16
*Number of players: 3 or more players*
A game of balance and strategy. How will you pile the beanbags on your body in order to make it across the playing field without them falling off?

**Sandwich Line** ................................................................. Page 17
*Number of players: 6 or more*
Move your beanbags from one player to another without using your hands. This game has no limit to the number of players.

Water Games (WG)

**Water Run** ................................................................. Page 18
*Number of players: 2 or more*
Do you have running water? Yes...running to the finish line. Strategy comes into play in this game. Will you be the fastest or the one with the most water? Both are winners!

**Water Log** ................................................................. Page 19
*Number of players: 6 or more players*
Team-work gets you there with this game. Pour water from bucket to bucket as your whole team moves steadily toward the finish line. You may not stay dry but you will have a blast!

**True Partnership** ............................................................. Page 20
*Number of players: 4 or more*
Hook up with your partner and go! The bucket will hold you together, but if you're not in sync...you might as well be in the sink!

**Water Catch** ................................................................. Page 21
*Number of players: 4 - 6 (or more if you alternate)*
A water balloon toss without the balloon.

**Totally Wet** ................................................................. Page 22
*Number of players: 3 - 6 (more if you alternate)*
Where else can you win a game by drenching the other players?

Junior Bonus Game (JG)

**Beanbag Toss** ............................................................. Page 23
*Number of players: 2 or more*
Junior Bonus Game for ages 4 and up.
Four's the Charm (IG)

A game of memory and inquisition. Ask for what you want and you just might get it. Listen closely to figure out who has your color. Collect all four beanbags of the same color and win!

Object of the game:
To get a winning hand of four beanbags of the same color.

Number of players:
3 - 6 players.

Game pieces you will need:
1 bucket per player, 4 beanbags of the same color per player

Set up: Players sit in a circle. Each player gets one bucket. Mix up the beanbags and put them in the middle of the circle. Players close their eyes and pick out four beanbags and put them in their bucket. Make sure to keep the beanbags hidden from the other players.

How to play: Each player looks over their beanbags and decides which color they want to collect. Pick one player to go first and then take turns going clockwise from that person on.

The first player asks another player of his/her choice for the color beanbag that he/she is collecting. For example: It's Ann's turn and she asks Brett for a red beanbag. If Brett has a red one, he must hand it over to Ann, who then hands over a beanbag of her choice to Brett. If Brett does not have a red beanbag, no exchange is made and it's the next players turn. The next player then gets a turn to ask any other player for a beanbag.

Continue taking turns asking and exchanging beanbags until one player gets a winning hand of all four of the same color. The other players may continue to play to see who comes in 2nd, 3rd and so on. The last two players will tie.

Beanbag Match (IG)

Which color to keep? Which color to pass? You never know what you'll get in this game. Capture all four beanbags of the same color and win!

Object of the game:
To be the first player to collect all four beanbags of the same color.

Number of players:
3 - 6 players.

Game pieces you will need:
1 bucket per player 4 beanbags of the same color per player blindfolds (optional)

Set up: Players sit in a circle. Each player gets one bucket. Mix up the beanbags and put them in the middle of the circle. Designate one player to be the "caller". When players are ready, the caller calls out, "Close your eyes and pick." Players close their eyes or put on the blindfolds, pick out four beanbags, and put them in their bucket. Players open their eyes or remove their blindfold to see what color beanbags they picked. Make sure to keep the beanbags hidden from the other players. Players can keep their blindfold tied on and move it up onto their forehead when not needed.

How to play: Once all players have their 4 beanbags, you are ready to play. Players look over their beanbags and decide which color they want to keep and which color they want to get rid of. Players choose one beanbag to get rid of. When all players are ready, the caller calls out, "Close your ears and pass." Each player closes his/her eyes, or moves the blindfold down onto his/her eyes and places the selected beanbag into the bucket of the player on his/her right while receiving one beanbag from the player on his/her left. Players look over the beanbag they received and decide again which ones to keep and which one to get rid of. When all players are ready, the caller calls out, "Close your eyes and pass." Players continue to pass and receive beanbags until one player collects all four beanbags of the same color. This is the winning hand. When this happens, yell out "Four of a kind." If two players have all four beanbags of the same color in the same round, then it is a tie game. The remaining players continue to play to see who comes in 2nd, 3rd and so on. The last two players will tie.
**Shot in the Dark (IG)**

Team building at its finest. Help your team toss the beanbags into the bucket while blindfolded. Yes, blindfolded! It can be done.

**Object of the game:**
To be the team to get the most beanbags in the buckets, while blindfolded!

**Number of players:**
4 - 30 or more players if you alternate players and play in rounds.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per team
4 or more beanbags per team
1 blindfold per team
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included)
1 chair per team (optional, not included)

**Set up:** Form teams of 3 - 5 players. You may form up to 6 teams. Each team gets a blindfold, a bucket and at least 4 beanbags. If you have less than 6 teams, distribute all of the beanbags evenly. If players want to sit in chairs, you will need 1 chair for each team.

Each team starts with a “toss.” The rest of the team players are “coaches” for that round. Set up the bucket about 3 - 5 feet away from the tosser. Tossers on each team may either stand or sit. If tossers want to sit, then set up a chair for each team.

**How to play:** Tossers look to see where the bucket is, then put on a blindfold. The blindfolded tosser throws the beanbags one at a time into the bucket without seeing the bucket. The other team players help by coaching the tosser to get the beanbags in the bucket. They may say things like: higher, lower, farther, shorter, left, right etc... When the tosser has thrown all of his/her beanbags, his/her turn is over and he/she becomes a coach and the next team player becomes a tosser. Keep playing and taking turns being the tosser until every player on the team gets a turn tossing.

Teams get one point per beanbag in the bucket. If a team has fewer players than the other teams, they can choose a player to go twice. Keep track of your points. The team with the most points wins.

**Variation:** If you are using 4 beanbags per team, let each tosser have two rounds of beanbags before switching tossers.

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**Beanbag Hunt (IG)**

Why wait until Easter to have an egg hunt? Beanbags last all year long.

**Object of the game:**
To find as many beanbags as you can.

**Number of players:**
3 or more players.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per team with the strap
24 beanbags
4 boundary cones (if playing outside)
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included)

**Set up:** This game can be played indoors or outdoors. Set up a boundary either with the cones or designate an area. Hide all of the beanbags. Each player straps on or carries a bucket. Players can strap their bucket on in the front or side to hold the beanbags that they find. If you have more than 6 players, let the youngest kids use the buckets.

**How to play:** When the beanbags are hidden and all players are ready, say “go”. Players must find the beanbags.

When you think you have all of the beanbags, count how many each player has. Each player gets 1 point per beanbag. Then put all the beanbags in a pile. Make sure you have all 24 beanbags. If any beanbags are missing, send the players out again to find the last missing beanbags. These are worth 2 points each. Once every last beanbag is found, the player with the most points wins.

**Variation:** Take turns letting each player hide the beanbags. Kids LOVE to hide the beanbags too.
Guess the Beanbag (IG)

A game of memory and concentration. Can you recall the color of the missing beanbag?

**Object of the game:**
To remember the color of the missing beanbag.

**Number of players:**
2 or more players.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket
24 beanbags
blindfold (optional)
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included)

**Set up:** Lay all the beanbags out flat, in random order, so each one is visible. You can lay them on the ground or on a table. Pick who goes first, second, third and so on.

**How to play:** The first player looks over the beanbags while the other players count to five. Then the first player either turns around so he/she is facing away from the beanbags or puts a blindfold on.

The remaining players work together to pick one beanbag out of the lay-out of beanbags and put it under a bucket to hide it. When ready, the first player looks at the pile while the other players count to five. When they reach five, the first player turns facing away from the beanbags again or puts the blindfold on, and says which color he/she thinks is missing. If the guess is correct, he/she gets 1 point.

The original beanbag goes back in the lay-out and the next player takes a turn.

Decide how many rounds you want to play. When you've completed all of your rounds, add up your points. The person with the most points wins.

**Variations:**
1. During round 2, take 2 beanbags away at a time. During round 3, take 3 beanbags away at a time. The game will get more and more difficult after each round.

2. Instead of putting the beanbags back after each player guesses, keep them out each round. * Mix up the beanbags after each player's turn.

Beanbag Basketball (IG)

Everyone's all time favorite! Rip-roaring laughs while you toss beanbags into buckets strapped to the other players' backsides.

**Object of the game:**
To earn the least number of points by tossing the beanbags into other players' buckets while avoiding having beanbags tossed into yours.

**Number of players:**
3 - 6 players.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per player, with strap
24 beanbags
4 boundary cones
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included, optional)

**Set up:** Use the cones to set up a boundary. Each player straps a bucket to his or her backside. Put all beanbags in a pile in the middle of the playing area, either on the ground or on a table (or any easy-to-reach area inside the playing boundary).

**How to play:** When all players are ready, say "Go". Players grab a beanbag and try to toss it into another players’ bucket, while avoiding beanbags getting tossed into their own bucket. If you throw the beanbag into another player's bucket, you may go to the beanbag pile and get another one. Each player may only one beanbag in his/her hand at a time. If you drop it or throw it and it misses the bucket, you may pick it up and try again or get another from the pile. Any beanbags on the ground can be picked up and used by any player. Players who take bean-bags out of their own bucket, grab at other players or throw beanbags harshly will be disqualified.

Once all the beanbags are gone (in the players’ buckets) the player with the fewest beanbags in their bucket wins.

**Variations:**
1. Choose the number of rounds you want to play ahead of time. Keep score for all the games you play. When all rounds are complete add up your scores. The player with the lowest score wins.

2. If you have more than 6 players, take turns and play in rounds.
Beanbag Balance (OG)

Can you balance a book on your head? How about a beanbag? The one with the best balance will win!

**Object of the game:** To be the first to travel across the playing field 4 or more times with beanbags balanced on your head.

**Number of players:**
2 - 6 or more with teams.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per player
4 beanbags per player
4 boundary cones

**Set up:** Use the cones to set up a start and finish line. Line up a bucket for each player at the finish line. Players line up in a row at the starting line with 4 beanbags of the same color as their bucket.

**How to play:** Each player starts with one beanbag balanced on his/her head. Players travel from start to finish with the beanbag balanced on their head. If the beanbag falls, the player must pick it up and start over at the starting line.

Once players reach the finish line with the beanbag still on their head, they drop the beanbag from their head into their bucket. If they miss their bucket they must start over at the starting line with that same beanbag and try again. If they make it, they run back to the starting line to get another beanbag. Repeat the process until all the beanbags are in their bucket.

The player to get all four of his/her beanbags into his/her bucket first is the winner. The next player comes in 2nd place and so on until all have completed the game.

**Variations:**
1. Bump up the challenge with an obstacle course.
2. If you have more than 6 players, you may form teams.
3. Players must twirl, flap their arms, sing, crawl, walk backward, spin or do other physical challenges while balancing the beanbags from the start to the finish line.

Beanbag Partners (OG)

Strategize with your partner on how to make a beanbag sandwich and be the first team across the playing field.

**Object of the game:**
To be the first team to get all your beanbags across the playing field and into your bucket.

**Number of players:**
4 - 12 or more.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per team
24 beanbags
4 boundary cones
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included, optional)

**Set up:** Use the cones to set up a start and finish line. Line up a bucket for each team at the finish line. Players pair up into teams of two. Line up in a row at the starting line with 4 beanbags per team. Each team should have beanbag colors that match their bucket at the finish line.

**How to play:** Each team must sandwich one beanbag between the two players, using any parts of their bodies except for the palms of their hands. Players travel from start to finish with the beanbag held between them the whole time.

If the beanbag drops, that team must take their beanbag back to the starting line and start again. When the team reaches the bucket at the finish line, they must drop the beanbag into the bucket without using their hands.

If the beanbag misses the bucket, they must take their beanbag back to the starting line and start over with it. If the beanbag makes it into the bucket, the team runs back to the starting line to get their next beanbag, and repeat the process until they get all four beanbags into the bucket.

The team to get all 4 beanbags into their bucket first is the winner. The next team comes in second place and so on until all have completed the game.

**Variations:**
1. Set up an obstacle course.
2. Try two or more beanbags sandwiched at a time.
3. If you have more than 12 players, alternate teams’ players and play in rounds.
Beanbag Limbo Line (OG)

A game of balance and strategy. How will you pile the beanbags on your body in order to make it across the playing field without them falling off?

Object of the game:
To balance as many beanbags on your body as you can across the playing field.

Number of players:
2 or more players.

Game pieces you will need:
4 buckets
24 beanbags
4 boundary cones

Set up: Use the cones to set-up a start and finish line. Place two buckets full of beanbags at the starting line and two empty buckets at the finish line. Players line up behind starting line.

How to play: The first player picks up one beanbag and balances it on his/her body. The beanbag cannot be balanced in the palms of the hands or tucked into clothing or a pocket. It can be placed on head, shoulders, arms, back, tops of feet, back of the hands, etc...

In order to stay in the game, players must make it from the starting line to the finish line without the beanbag falling to the ground. When each player reaches the finish line, he/she places the beanbag in the bucket. It's okay if the beanbag falls on the ground once it's passed the finish line. The next player does the same until each player has completed a turn with one beanbag. On the next round, each player must balance two beanbags. On the next round, three. If a player drops a beanbag before reaching the finish line, he/she is out of the game.

Players continue to increase the number of beanbags each round until one player remains. He/she is the winner.

Note: When the buckets at the starting line are empty, simply switch them with the full buckets at the finish line.

Sandwich Line (OG)

Move your beanbags from one player to another without using your hands. This game has no limit to the number of players.

Object of the game:
For your team to pass the most beanbags from one end of your team to the other.

Number of players:
6 or more players.

Game pieces you will need:
2 buckets (one per team)
24 beanbags (12 per team)
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included, optional)

Set up: Form two teams of equal players. Each team gets 12 beanbags and forms a line. Place the beanbags at the starting end of each line and one bucket at the finish end of each line.

How to play: The first player in line picks up a beanbag and holds or balances it somewhere on their body without touching it with the palms of their hands. That player must then pass it to the next player in line without either player using the palms of their hands. They may use the backs of the hands, arms, back, legs or any other part of the body to get the beanbag from one player to another. No using pockets or articles of clothing.

Keep passing the beanbag down the line to the next team player until you reach the last player in line. The last player drops the beanbag in the bucket. Then start over again with another beanbag. If a beanbag falls or touches the ground, that beanbag is disqualified.

Players may encourage, coach and give verbal instructions while their team members are passing the beanbags. When all the beanbags have been passed down the line, the team with the most beanbags in their bucket wins.

Variation: For very large groups, you can form up to six teams. Divide the beanbags equally. To lengthen the game when you have fewer beanbags per team, place the buckets and the beanbags at the same end of the line. Pass the beanbags down the line and back and drop them into the bucket.
**Water Run (WG)**

Do you have running water? Yes...running to the finish line. Strategy comes into play in this game. Will you be the fastest or the one with the most water? Both are winners!

**Object of the game:**
To be the player that ends up with the most water or gets to the finish line first.

**Number of players:**
2 or more players.

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per player (with straps)
4 boundary cones
water

**Set up:** Use the cones to set up a boundary with a start and finish line. Each player straps a bucket to his or her front-side or backside (player's choice). Fill each player's bucket with water.

**How to play:** When all players are ready, say "Go". All players must race to the finish line. There are two winners: 1) the one who gets to the finish line first, and 2) the one who completes the race with the most water left in the bucket.

**Variations:**
1. Bump up the challenge by setting up an obstacle course.
2. Players must turn, flap their arms, walk backwards, crawl, spin, sing or do other physical challenges while carrying the water from start to finish line.
3. If you have more than 6 players, take turns with the buckets and play in rounds.

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**Water Log (WG)**

Team-work gets you there with this game. Pour water from bucket to bucket as your whole team moves steadily toward the finish line. You may not stay dry but you will have a blast!

**Object of the game:**
To be the team to cross the finish line first or cross the finish line with the most water in your bucket.

**Number of players:**
6 or more players.

**Game pieces you will need:**
2 buckets per team
4 boundary cones
water

**Set up:** Use the cones to set up a start and finish line. Divide up into two teams of equal players. Each team gets two buckets and forms a single-file line behind the starting line. The last two players in line hold the buckets. Fill the very last player's bucket with water.

**How to play:** When all players are ready, say "Go!" The last player in line pours the water from his/her bucket to the player's bucket in front of him/her. The last player now gives his/her empty bucket to the player in front of the water bearer and moves to the front of the line.

Players keep pouring the water to the next player in line, passing off their buckets and moving to the front of the line. The line will start to move forward like a log drifting straight downstream. When the water makes it over the finish line in a bucket, the first winner is determined. Teams continue until each team crosses the finish line. The second winner is determined by the team who makes it over the finish line with the most water in their bucket.

**Variations:**
1. Spread the team members farther apart so they have to toss the water from player to player.
2. Pass the actual bucket from player to player (with this version you can form up to 6 teams).
3. For larger groups, make one more team (3 total).
True Partnership (WG)

Hang on to the bucket and go if you’re not in sync...you might as well be in the sink!

Object of the game:
To be the team to cross the finish line first or cross the finish line with the most water in your bucket.

Number of players:
4 or more players.

Game pieces you will need:
1 bucket per a team
4 boundary cones
water

Set up: Use the cones to set up a start and finish line. Pair up in teams of two. Give each team one bucket. Team partners hold on to their bucket. Fill each teams’ bucket with water. Line up at the starting line.

How to play: When all players are ready, say “Go!” Race to the finish line. The players must both hold on to the bucket the whole time. There are two winners: 1) the team who gets to the finish line first, and 2) the team who completes the race with the most water left in the bucket.

Variations:
1. If you have an odd number of players, or more teams than buckets, you can play in rounds and take turns.
2. Bump up the challenge by setting up an obstacle course.
3. Players must twirl, flap their arms, walk backwards, crawl, spin, sing or do other physical challenges while carrying the water from start to finish line.

Water Catch (WG)

A water balloon toss without the balloon.

Object of the game:
To be the team to end the game with the most water in their bucket.

Number of players:
4 - 6 (more if you play in rounds and alternate players).

Game pieces you will need:
2 buckets per team
4 boundary cones
water
paper and pencil for keeping score (not included, optional)

Set up: Pair up in teams of two. Team players stand 3 feet apart, facing each other. Fill one bucket per team with water.

How to play: The team player with the full bucket of water tosses the water into his/her partner’s bucket. He/she tries to catch as much of the water as possible. The team member with the empty bucket takes a step back.

Continue to toss the water and step back until each player has tossed the water twice. Compare the level of the water left in the buckets. The team with the most water wins.

Variations:
1. Teams win points for the amount of water left in the bucket. Play in rounds and keep track of your score.
2. If there are an odd number of players, rotate players so everyone gets a turn.
3. If you have more than 12 players, you can alternate players in the rounds so everyone gets to play.
4. If teams are doing well at catching the water, give each player 3 or more turns at tossing.
**Totally Wet (WG)**

Where else can you win a game by drenching the other players?

**Object of the game:**
To be the driest player when the game is over.

**Number of players:**
3 - 6 (more if you play in rounds and alternate players).

**Game pieces you will need:**
1 bucket per player
4 boundary cones
water

**Set up:** Make sure players are prepared to get totally wet from head to toe. Use the cones to set up a boundary. Each player gets a bucket full of water. Start with players spread out in the playing field. Fill each player's bucket with water.

**How to play:** When all players are ready, say “Go!” Players try to drench each other with their bucket of water and avoid being drenched by others. The round is over when everyone's bucket is empty.

You can strategize by dumping all of your water on one person or splashing some on each player. The player who is the driest at the end of the round wins.

**Variations:**
1. Set a number of rounds you will play. The player who is the driest after all the rounds are complete is the winner.

2. If you have more than 6 players, you can alternate players in the rounds so everyone gets to play.

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**Beanbag Toss (JG)**

Junior Bonus Game for ages 4 and up.

**Object of the game:**
To get the most points.

**Number of players:**
2 or more players.

**Game pieces you will need:**
6 buckets
24 beanbags
1 boundary cone
pencil and paper for keeping score (not included)

**Set up:** Line up all 6 buckets in a row. Set up a boundary line about 3 feet away from the first bucket. Players will toss their beanbags from this point. For more advanced players, make the line farther away. For beginners, make the line closer. If you have a range of ages, make one line close to the buckets for the younger players and one line farther away for the older players. Each player gets 4 beanbags to toss into the buckets.

**How to play:** Take turns tossing the beanbags into the buckets. The bucket farthest away is worth the most points (6), next closest (5)…until you get to the closest bucket worth (1) point. Add up your points. The person with the most points wins.

**Variations:**
1. Play in rounds and keep track of your score.

2. Let players have 8 or more beanbags each.

3. Place buckets in an s curve or other shape. Keep the farthest away worth the most points.

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![Point Values](image)

![Player Position](image)