

Children's Magic Party Games

Hopefully the most exciting part of a children's party is the magician ! After the food break games are normally played for younger children's parties. As an entertainer people often also ask me for party game ideas, and of course they expect me to provide some twist on the classic games.



Listed below are a few ideas to help fit in with your party theme

- ▶ If you are planning to do the games yourself I would also suggest reading my [successful party games tips](#).

Feed the monster

Prepare a piece of cardboard by drawing a monster face on it and cutting a hole where the mouth would be - large enough for say, rolled up socks or bean bags to be thrown through. Lean the monster face against a chair and place it 6-8 feet away (depending upon the abilities of the children). Each child takes a turn throwing three items of "food" (i.e. beanbags, cloth balls, rolled socks etc) into the monster's mouth. After each child's turn, retrieve the "food" and hand it to the next child. Every time a child successfully "feeds" the monster, they get a small prize.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Use a character which relates to your party theme instead of a monster: Octopus for a pirate party; T-Rex for dinosaur party; lion for a jungle party, etc.

Duck duck goose ("It")

Sit the party children in a circle and let the birthday child begin as the "Goose." The child walks around the circle lightly tapping each person on the head, saying "Duck" with each tap. At any time, the party child can choose the next person to be the Goose, by saying "Goose" when tapping that person on the head. That child gets up and chases the birthday child around the circle. If the new "Goose" does not tag the birthday child before he/she makes it all the way around the circle and sits in the open spot, then the new Goose becomes "it." If the new Goose tags the birthday child, then the birthday child remains "it" for the next round and the game continues.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Buzz, Buzz, Sting for a bug party; Swish, Swish, Swosh for a pirate party.

Guess how many ?

Before the party, fill a large flower pot or jar with marbles, small sweets, plant bulbs or toys. (Obviously count them before you put them in). As the party children arrive, ask each one to guess how of each item they think there is in the container. Make a note of each child's guess. At the end of the party, the person who guesses the closest number is the winner and gets to take home the jar.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Small lego pieces for a lego party; black and orange jellybeans for a Halloween party; small plastic dinosaurs for a dinosaur party.

Hot potato

Sit the party children in a circle and pass an item around while an adult leader plays music. The child holding the item when the music stops is out. Last player left not holding the item is the winner.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Pass a toy spider for a Halloween party; rubber snake for a cowboy party; teddy bear for a teddy bear party
- ▶ **Summer / outdoors suggestion:** "Cold Potato" - Kids throw a water-bomb balloon back and forth across the circle. The player holding it when it breaks is out. Last player left dry is the winner.

Limbo

Two adults hold some type of pole, e.g. broom or at the party child's height. Start the music. The party children must walk under the pole without touching it. After each round, the adults lower the pole an inch or two. When the pole gets very low, children may bend backward and shimmy under, or even crawl. If a player touches the pole, he is out.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Pirate Limbo - adults hold a play sword; Halloween Limbo - adults hold a witch's broom; Fairy Party - adults hold a magic wand Another Twist: Water Limbo - Have an adult point a stream of water for kids to limbo under. Great for a pool party!

Memory

Arrange 10 to 15 small items or toys such as a pencil, watch, comb, spoon, toy car, etc. on a tray and cover with a cloth. Arrange the party children in a circle with the tray in the middle. Remove the cloth for 60 seconds while guests try to remember as many of the objects as possible. When time is up, replace the cloth. Now, each person has to name an object on the tray. The first person to fail to name an object, repeats an object or names something not on the tray is out. The tray is then removed and some or all of the objects replaced, and the game re-started with the person following the one who is out. If the game is too easy for the group, add more objects or reduce the time.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Use whichever objects relate to your party theme: toy tools and trucks for a construction party; lego pieces for a lego party, make-up items for a princess party.

Musical chairs

Arrange one chair or pillow less than the number of children at your party. Start the music and ask the children to dance, skip or walk in a circle around the chairs/pillows, until the music is stopped. When stopped the aim is to sit on a vacant chair/pillow. Only one person per chair/pillow is allowed (even if they are twins!) One "seat" is removed after each turn; each child respectively who doesn't manage to find a free seat is out. The child who eventually sits on the final free seat is the winner.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** "Musical anthills" for a bug party; "musical islands" for a Pirate Party; "musical webs" for a Spider Man Party

Pin the tail on the donkey

Usually fairly cheap to buy (and even easier make) - remember to place a piece of tape on the back of each object the party children will be pinning on the poster. Blindfold each child, spin them around, and point them toward the poster. The child who pins their object closest to the designated spot, is the winner!

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Pin the nose on the clown; Pin the Tooth on the T-Rex; Pin the Spider on the web for a Bug Party; Pin the X on the treasure map for a Pirate Party

Simon says

Arrange the party children standing in a group in front of the leader. The leader says, "Simon says, 'Do this,'" as she taps her head, claps her hands, turns around, etc. The children must follow the leader's actions, but only if she begins with "Simon says..." If the leader just says "Do this," the children must do nothing. If a party child makes a mistake, he is out. The last child "in" is the winner.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Change "Simon Says" to a character relating to your party's theme: "Blackbeard Says" for a Pirate Party; "Spider Man Says" for a Spider Man Party; "Cinderella Says" for a Princess Party.

Spin the bottle

Arrange the party children sitting in a circle, holding the gift they brought. The birthday child spins a bottle and opens the gift of the party guest at whom the bottle is pointing when it stops. If it stops at a person that has already given a gift just go left until you find someone that hasn't had the gift they brought opened. A calm and quiet way to open gifts without all the pushing and showing.

- ▶ **Theme suggestion:** Spin the telescope for a pirate party; spin the ruler for a construction Party;

Mystery scramble

Arrange some thick blankets over a table and some chairs to create a "crawling tunnel" beneath. Place three or four objects in the tunnel. Each party child must crawl through and identify the objects by touch only. Any child unable to relay the objects is out. This can be repeated with one or two items replaced each time. The last person left is the winner.

Treasure hunt

Set up a treasure hunt, with various objects and clues. Divide the children into groups of two or three. Place the written or picture clues through out the house, venue or garden. The treasure? A sweet or small chocolate, the right to stand by the birthday boy/girl when candles are blown or to choose the next game.

Mini theatre

Divide the guests into groups of 3-5 children each. Give each group a well known story and ask them to produce plays. This keeps them busy a long time. Have old clothes for them to dress up. These ideas will inspire you to be even more creative and come up with some of your own.

Whatever you decide to do - have a magical party !

[Contact Steve at Childrens Magic Parties](#)
to see what he can bring to your next event ...

