

Parachute Play



Multicoloured Rip Stop Nylon Parachute

Available in different sizes



Multicoloured Playground Parachute



Target Parachute Multicoloured Pocket Parachute

- ❖ Great fun for all ages.
- ❖ Encourages teamwork and cooperation.
- ❖ Develops gross motor skills.
- ❖ Helps build muscles and improves coordination.

Parachute Play getting started



Parachute Play Pack

Resources

- Parachute
- Large clear space either indoors or outdoors.
- Selection of balls/beanbags/scarves depending on which games playing.
- Music could also be used.

What to do

1. Invite children to stand in a circle.
2. Remind them of the safety rules before getting the parachute out-e.g. removing shoes and socks if moving on top of the parachute. Do not make physical contact with anyone when moving under the parachute. Remove any jewellery before playing.
3. Remind them that we all need to work as a team and need to cooperate and work together for games to be successful.
4. Unroll the parachute and let the fun begin.



Parachute Play ideas



Wave Maker- All children sit holding the edge of the parachute. Tell them that they are going to create the story of a storm. Ask them to make gentle ripples on the surface by making small movements with their arms. Build up to huge crashing waves with large movements. Create a story about a storm out at sea, the children performing the correct movements at the appropriate time. Place coloured scarves/balls on top of the parachute to create different effects.

Mexican Wave- The children crouch while holding the edge of the parachute. Choose one child to stand quickly to begin a Mexican Wave. The children jump up one by one in a clockwise direction to create the effect.

Relaxation- Play relaxing music and move arms in time with the music to move the parachute and create ripples and waves. Practise breathing techniques and enjoy and relax.

Sing Songs- Sing songs, rhymes and poems and move the parachute as they are recited. Could also share key topic vocabulary saying words and definitions.

Tables Chant- Chant multiplication tables together or practise mental maths.

More Parachute Play ideas



Balloon- Get the children to raise their arms above their heads to float the parachute into a balloon shape. When the children can do this lots of other games can be played.

Birthdays- The children practise lifting the parachute up into the air as a team, holding the edge above their head. When the parachute is on the way up call out the name of a month. Any child with a birthday in that month goes under the parachute and moves into an empty space around the edge before the parachute falls.

You can also play this game by giving each child a number or a colour as the signal for them to move.

If 'All change' is called, then everyone swaps positions! They'll have to be quick and very careful to avoid any collisions.

Swapping- Parachute is floated up and prompts are called e.g. change if you have brown eyes. Then all the children with brown eyes run underneath and swap places.

Favourite Things- Call out statements like, 'Who likes pizza?' and those that agree run underneath the parachute to swap places.



More Parachute Play ideas



Ball Games Flip- All children hold the edge of the parachute. Roll a ball into the centre. The aim is to make the ball rise-up into the air and flip off the parachute.

Experiment and work as a team to try different techniques to make this happen.

Try using different sized balls. Try using multiple balls.

Set a timer to see how long it takes to get all the balls to flip off.

Flip Catch- Half the children hold the edge of the parachute while the others stand in a circle around the outside of the parachute. Roll a ball into the middle. The aim is to flip the ball out to be caught by one of the children standing around the edge. When a child catches the ball, they join the others holding the edge of the parachute. How quickly can you get everyone back.

Rollercoaster-All children hold the edge of the parachute. Place a ball in front of one child. The aim is to make the ball travel around the edge of the parachute without it dropping off. This game can be played sitting or standing. Try both. Several attempts might be needed before the children discover how to accomplish the aim.

Ball Keeper Teams- Half the circle are the keepers and the other half the shooters. The aim is for the shooters to knock the balls off the parachute and for the keepers to keep the balls on. Who will succeed?

Popcorn- Place small balls into the middle of the parachute and use different movements to make them jump up and down.



More Parachute Play ideas



Music Dance- Move parachute to different pieces of music. Create moves and dances in time with the music. If balloon is created, then some children can go underneath dancing to the music as they change places with someone.

Sharks- The children sit with their legs outstretched under the parachute while holding the edge. They make small waves by gently moving the edge up and down. One child is chosen to go underneath the parachute to become the shark. They move carefully around and tap one child on the leg. This child screams 'ARRRR!' and goes under the parachute to become the new shark swapping places with the old shark. More than one shark can be chosen as long as children are careful not to make physical contact with others and follow the parachute rules.

Mushroom- As children become confident using the parachute and learn the skills to work as a team, they will be able to create the giant mushroom/circus tent! To achieve this the parachute is floated up and then pulled behind their back. They sit on the inside edge of the parachute creating a special dome. Someone can be chosen to go into the centre of the parachute to support the shape with their head, acting like a tent pole! The dome created provides an atmospheric space, full of lovely colours, ideal for enjoying special discussions or story-telling. It's a great way to end your parachute lesson before packing the parachute carefully away. The space can be used to make up a story together, everyone saying one line as the story is passed around the circle. Or use the space to share how everyone is feeling, each providing a word to describe their session with the parachute. There are so many opportunities.



Parachute Play



We hope you enjoy using your parachute. If you have a brilliant idea that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.