

“Popcorn” Parachute Play

Activity: The children will work together to move ping pong balls up and down (like popping corn) on the parachute.



Objective

The children will engage in a physical activity while demonstrating coordination and intensity.

Targeted Standards

I. Physical Development

I.A.a.1. Engages in physical activities with increasing balance, coordination, endurance and intensity.

http://www.floel.org/standardsresource/standards.html#d=l&a=four_year_olds_fd

Procedures

1. Invite children to sit in a circle around the parachute.
2. Place ping pong balls on top of the parachute towards the center.
3. Ask children to stand up, and hold the parachute with both hands.
4. Challenge them to begin moving their hands up and down slowly to create waves in the parachute and gently move the balls.
5. Yell, “POPCORN,” and ask the children to shake the parachute as fast and as hard as they can to make the balls pop like popcorn. Challenge them to pop all the balls out of the parachute.
6. Ask the children to collect the balls and repeat the activity.

Materials Needed

Parachute with handles

Ping pong balls

Checking for Understanding

Children will demonstrate their understanding of the lesson by, participating in the group activity and following the directions of the game.

Scaffolding

- To decrease the difficulty of the activity, ask the children to simply move the balls up and down rather than trying to pop all the balls out of the parachute.
- To increase the difficulty of the activity, ask the children to walk in a circle while “popping the corn.”

Extensions

- Read a book about popcorn.
- Invite the children to pretend they are popcorn kernels. Ask them to curl up on the floor and pop up when they hear you yell, “POP!”
- Use an air popper to pop some corn. Encourage the children to discuss what they see, hear, smell, taste, and feel.