



SUPERSTAR

Playground Games

Organiser's Card



About the activity

This activity is designed to get children thinking about disabilities and creating games that are accessible and inclusive.

Cosmic and Gem's friend Lyra has limited vision, but would like to join in on their games. Can the investigators find some accessible games?

Through this activity you will support your group to:

- Learn about the effects of limited vision
- Design games taking into account the needs of different players
- Evaluate their games



Kit list

- Games equipment such as bean bags, balls, cones, poles etc.
- Bells and other noise makers
- Torches and other lights
- Ear plugs
- Low-vision simulators etc.



What to do

1. Read the activity card to familiarise yourself with the activity.
2. Check the kit list and ensure you have the correct resources.
3. Set the scene by discussing Lyra's experience with the children.
4. Help children to decide what they can do to understand more about how certain games might limit access to children with disabilities.
5. Help children to collect resources.
6. Give children plenty of options when they research different inclusive sports e.g. using internet, books and leisure centre visit.
7. Ensure children think about how ideas can be tested safely.

Things to think about

Visual disabilities can be experienced by using low-vision simulators. There are some suggestions for making these on the activity card. Additionally you can paint different markings on goggles, block the central area of vision, block the whole lens apart from a small peep-hole or stick patches of translucent or opaque paper on the lenses.

Other disabilities could be experienced by playing a game while sitting in a chair, by using ear-muffs etc.

Keywords

- Disability
- Sports
- Adaptation
- Creativity
- Accessibility



Watch out!

Before restricting sight, hearing or movement, ensure the children are in a safe space and have appropriate support. Watch out for any children showing signs of distress.

Follow your organisation's guidelines for outdoor work.

Make sure any alterations made to sports equipment are safe.



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Activity Card

Cosmic and Gem have made a ten-pin bowling game. They love playing it! They want their friend Lyra to be able to join in. Lyra has low vision. Cosmic thinks that they can change the game so that they can all play together.



"Perhaps we could wear some special glasses so we see the game in the same way that Lyra does" says Gem.

What do you think they can do?

Your challenge

Create a set of playground games that can be played together by children, with and without disabilities.

Discuss

Try bowling while wearing low-vision simulators. What difference does it make? In what ways can you change the game to make it easier for everyone to play together?

Lyra was wondering if you can think of ideas for other games that children with and without disabilities can play.



Getting started

How well are outdoor games designed for children who have low vision or difficulty hearing, have limited movement or use a wheelchair?

Research games that people with disabilities play, for example Goalball.
Try out one of these games.

What games can you play outdoors? Are there any markings for games?

What could you do so that more children can join in?

What new games can you create? What rules will your games have?

How will you make sure your games are safe?

Now test your games. How accessible are they? If you do not have a disability, you may need to try your games by using low-vision simulators, ear muffs, sitting in a chair, and so on.

To do your tests you will need:

Games equipment such as bean bags, balls, cones, poles, and so on.

Bells and other noise-makers

Torches and other lights

Limited-vision simulators – try very dark sunglasses; goggles covered with tissue with a small peep-hole cut in it; or your own glasses with one lens covered

Ear muffs

Some of your fellow investigators have had a few ideas to get you started:

I am going to use catching nets for rounders, to make it easier to catch the ball.

We could use a sound-maker on a game to help us find a target.

We could attach a bell to a beanbag or ball. I wonder if we can throw it to each other wearing a blindfold.

We could use a flashing light instead of a sound to start races.

We could try playing volleyball or tennis sitting on the ground instead of running around.

What will you do?

Share your ideas

Create a plan of your ideal playground with games marked on it. You could share it with adults – they may like to use your ideas!

