

Activity 12

Age: 8 yrs +

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Lots of balloons, four bins or boxes, role-card for each group

Play Right

AIM: To highlight the necessary conditions for young people to be able to play

What to do:

Brainstorm on games that the group are familiar with. Ask why we play games. How do they make us feel? Form four teams- A, B, C and D (if small group, have two teams). Before beginning the game, give each team a role card. Explain that there is going to be a relay race where the teams have to pass balloons from one end of room (or space) to the other, without using hands/arms or the balloons touching the floor. If the balloon touches the floor, they have to start again. Teams must wait until each balloon is in the bin before passing the next balloon. Get each team to read the role card before the game begins and follow the additional instructions. After an agreed length of time, count the balloons for each team and declare a winner.

In the large group, ask what happened. How do the teams feel about it? Explain that the game is now over. Get each team to read out their role-cards.

Debrief Questions:

- * Ask if everyone has the right to play.
- * Are there particular places or situations where young people don't have the right to play?
- * What affects young people's right to play?
- * What effect has it on them?

Action: Host a Right to Play Day for your local community – find out about the different games played by children and young people around the world and invite people to come and participate. Use this as an opportunity to highlight the challenges children and young people face to the right to play in different parts of the world.

Role-Cards

Team A

You have to work during the day so you don't have time to go to school or to play games. You cannot start the game until all the other teams have two balloons in the bin.

Team B

Your family moved to a new area and you find it difficult to fit in. None of the other kids will let you join in their games. They make fun of you because of the way you look and speak. You can only use your heads and shoulders to touch the balloons.

Team C

You enjoy playing lots of games. It's hard to find space to play them though. On the street, drivers are always giving out to you and your parents don't like you being out of their sight unsupervised. You must arrange your line according to age with the eldest at the start and the youngest at the end before you can start the game.

Team D

You have been sick for some time which means you are in bed a lot. You would like to go to the hospital but it's very expensive and quite far away. You don't have many friends to play with and anyway, you don't have the energy. You have to hop on one leg.