

Games to Play While Working

Children living in the past usually helped their families around the house much more than kids do today. This was in part because working was a way of teaching children what they needed to know as adults, but also because everything had to be done by hand so there was a lot more work to go around. Many of these chores were boring so kids made up lots of different games that they could play while their hands were occupied with work. Try some examples while you help with chores around the house.



Gliffes (Tongue Twisters)

“Dick drunk drink in a dish; where’s the dish Dick drunk drink in?”

“Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.”

“I saw Susie sitting in a shoeshine shop.”

“I wish to wash my Irish wristwatch.”

“He threw three free throws.”

“Red lorry, yellow lorry.” (3x fast)

“Thin sticks, thick bricks.” (3x fast)

Riddles (answers at the bottom of the second page)

1. What is ten men’s length and ten men’s strength, yet ten men cannot stand on its end?
2. To places where ships are safe from a storm, add that which makes part of your face; and then these two are together, they’ll form the name of a very brave place.
3. What becomes wetter the more it dries?
4. What has hands but doesn’t clap?
5. What has to be broken before you can use it?
6. Name me and you break me.

Bird, Beast, Fish

One person is “It” and stands in the middle of the circle. The person who is “It” randomly points to someone in the circle says either Bird, Beast or Fish. The person chosen has 10 seconds to name whatever was called---Bird (animal that has feathers/flies), Beast (animal that lives on land but doesn’t fly or have feathers) or Fish (animal that lives in ocean/water). If the person chosen cannot name an animal in the category within 10 seconds he/she must sit down. The person left standing is the winner. (The same animal cannot be repeated in the same game.)

Crambo

One thinks of a simple word that has lots of rhyming words (ex. Hat) They then tell the rest of the group, “I am thinking of a word that rhymes with...” and say a rhyming word to the one that was chosen (ex. Sat). The other players then have to guess what it is by asking a question describing the word they are thinking of (ex. Is it something flat that you wipe your feet on?) The leader then says yes or no and names the word that was described (ex. No, it is not a mat). The players keep guessing in this manner until someone gets it right. Then the game begins again.

1.	A rope
2.	Portsmouth
3.	A towel
4.	A clock
5.	An egg
6.	Silence