



Core Activity

Activity	Parachute games
Main Focus	Spatial awareness

Possibilities for additional maths learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Activity Plan

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parachute (alternatives can be sheets or foil blankets). ➤ A range of resources for different games e.g. inflated balloons, balls etc.
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Activity	<p>Explore the parachute and how to use it – you will need an adult to support. Ask the children to hold onto the edge of the parachute (some have handles) and talk about how you have to hold on tightly as people holding on at the other side will be pulling. Talk about how the parachute forms a circle. Start by holding it tight and getting children to lift the parachute up and down, up and down, up and down. This takes great concentration as they reach up high and then down low, all the while hanging onto the handles – this may take a little bit practice until children get use to how tight to hold on and how to get into a rhythm.</p> <p>You can then take turns allowing some children to go under the parachute while the others continue to move it up and down – choose two children to swap over with each other, they will need to find their way under and to the place where the other child has come from and grab the handle whilst the other children keep the rhythm going.</p> <p>Try introducing a ball Everyone holds the parachute taut. Place a large soft ball onto the parachute. Encourage children to bounce the ball by lifting the parachute up and down whilst trying to keep the ball on. Try to make the ball roll around the edge of the chute. To do this someone starts the ball rolling. As it comes towards you, you lower the edge you are holding, and as it goes past you raise your edge higher. When all the players do this in time it creates a wave going round the edge, pushing the ball round in front of it in a smooth, steady circle. Once you've done this try speeding up - or change direction. You can use a balloon to reduce the speed if a ball is difficult to use.</p>
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Introduce more than one ball

Count how many balls, balloons or other objects you are putting on the parachute. Re-count the designated number before you shake the parachute to support rote counting and one to one correspondence. The children gather around the parachute and hold onto one of the parachute handles. If there are more children than there are handles on the parachute, the children who are not holding a handle can become the ball fetchers. The balls are all placed in the centre of the parachute and then the children begin to wave their arms up and down causing the balls to pop up and off of the parachute. Use very light weight so they pop up very easily. The aim is for the children holding the parachute to get all of the balls off and the aim for the ball fetchers is to get them all on. Set a timer and once finished count the number of balls on and the number off; which has more? Which has less? Swap the children over and play again.

During parachute games emphasise spatial words: under, on top, up, down, above, in, out, in-between, next to.

Extension Opportunities

- ✓ Add nursery rhymes to the game e.g. place five balls or balloons onto the parachute and sing 'Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed' encouraging the children to jump the objects (monkeys) up and down with the intention of getting one monkey off – how many are left?
- ✓ For more parachute ideas visit - <https://teaching2and3yearolds.com/fun-parachute-games-that-keep-toddlers-moving/>