



Simon says: Action games

There are lots of action games you can play at home with your children and family.

1. Simon says

There are many language topics you can practise with Simon says. Try these ideas:

- actions: jump, hop, turn around, swim, fly, sit down, stand up, clap your hands, dance, sing, eat, drink, sleep, surf, etc.
- clothes: touch your trousers, T-shirt, socks, shoes, button, pocket, zip, etc.
- animals: be a cat, dog, fish, monkey, lion, kangaroo, elephant, mouse, etc.
- people: act like a rock star, fire fighter, robot, zombie, football player, alien, teacher, etc.

Don't forget, your children will love to take turns to be 'Simon'.

2. I spy

A simple variation of the game 'I spy' which little kids will enjoy. Say 'I spy with my little eye ... children dancing!' Your children must start dancing. Repeat, using lots of different action words. If your children are confident enough, they can also give instructions.

3. Charades

Choose a topic that your child knows, for example sports. You could use a selection of flashcards to help. Ask your child to secretly choose a sport or a flashcard with a sport. Your child should mime the sport, and you try to guess the sport. If your child is confident with the words in English, you can also change roles so that you mime the sport and they guess.

4. What's the time, Mr Wolf?

Get your children to line up. Stand approximately 20 steps in front of them, with your back to them. They ask 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?' You say '4 o'clock!' and they take four steps towards you, counting out loud: '1, 2, 3, 4'. Repeat, using different times so they take different numbers of steps. When you think they are very close behind you, shout 'Dinner time!' in response to their question. Then, turn around and try to catch them. They should run away back to their starting position (where they are safe from the wolf), trying not to let you catch them.

This is another game where your children will love to take turns being Mr Wolf.

You can also vary the language used. For example, children ask 'What colour is it?' and you reply with different colours. Children spell the colour out loud and take steps forward according to how many letters are in the word, e.g. for 'red' they take three steps forward saying: 'r - e - d'.