

Human Hungry Hippos



Most children will be familiar with the game 'Hungry Hippos', so will take delight in the chance to participate in a human version. This is a very silly game, so no one really cares who wins!

Equipment

Skateboards - 1 per team

Washing up bowls - 1 per team

Ball pit balls - about 200 (but more is better!)

Hula hoops - optional, but if you do use them, you will need 1 per team, plus one extra, for the middle

Method

1. Firstly, set out the balls in the centre of a large area.
2. Arrange the skateboards evenly in a ring about 2-3 metres out from the balls, each one facing inwards.
3. Next, you will need teams of two (or possibly three, with one person to collect the balls).
4. One person lies face down on the skateboard, holding an upside down washing up bowl.
5. The second person holds the legs of the person lying on the skateboard, and uses them to propel the skateboard towards the balls.
6. The person lying down, then uses the upturned washing up bowl to gather as many balls as possible, and scoops them back to their starting position as they are dragged backwards.
7. The process continues, until there are no longer any balls left in the middle, or until the end of a set time period.
8. If anyone is bothered, you can count up the number of balls acquired by each team, and announce a winner.

NB If you are playing this game on a hard surface, like a playground or gym, you might need to use the hula hoops to help contain the balls and stop them from escaping. It can be useful to have a number of helpers on the margins to round up loose balls and return them to the centre after each lunge by the 'hippos'.

Areas of learning and development

PD Physical Development

PSED Personal, social and emotional development