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L.Pollard

GAMES FROM THE CUTLERY DRAWER - SPOONS

Who needs fancy games equipment when everything you need to have a great time can be found in your very own kitchen?! Here are a few of our favourites if you fancy a spoon-taneous games session:

DIG IT UP

This one is perfect for encouraging people to help out in the garden!

- Arm everyone playing with **small container** (we find empty baked beans tins are a good size) and a **spoon** (if mixed ages, you could give younger ones bigger dessert spoons, whilst older players could have teaspoons if you were feeling a bit mean!)
- Set the players around a patch of earth (ideally one you want some holes for bulb planting, but otherwise any patch).
- Give a countdown and on “**Go**” players must race to fill their container with earth using only their spoon. The first player to fill it to the top **wins!**
- A follow up could be to fill the containers with water and players then have to race to empty theirs using only their spoon (no tipping out allowed!) A fun way to water the plants!

FEED THE BABY

This one you are going to want to make sure to supervise closely! It WILL get messy!

- Sit players down on the **floor** facing each other. (We would advise a tile or laminate floor, an outside space or else cover the floor with a protective covering.)
- Make sure players are wearing clothes they don't mind getting dirty or give each player a **bib** (Bin bags with holes cut out make awesome waterproof ponchos).
- Give one player a **small container of something edible**. What you choose depends on how messy you want players to get, but we like tomato soup, rice pudding or baked beans.
- Give the other player a **spoon**.
- Now **blindfold both players**.
- The aim is for the player with the spoon to feed the other player from the container their partner is holding **without dropping the food** all over the place. They then **swap**. The winner is the one who makes the least mess.
- Variations could include using only one hand, or using no hands at all, and the player with the spoon has to hold the spoon with their lips for those who really want a difficult challenge!



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SPOON SNAP

If you have a drawer or box full of old spoons, this is an easy way to convince someone to help you sort it! All you need is a large collection of different spoons, in a box or a pile. There are so many variations for this game, here are a few to get you started:

- Players take it in turns to find a specific spoon while being timed – fastest player wins! You could take a photo of the spoon you want them to find on your phone, or written/verbal description to make it harder. For even **more** of a challenge, you could blindfold players.
- Blindfold **2 players** and have them race to find the special spoon by touch only!
- Jumble the spoons up then time players one at a time to **sort all the spoons** into a specific order, like largest to smallest or vice versa. Fastest time wins!
- Hold up a spoon that you know has an identical match in the pile. Players race to find the matching spoon. When they do, they have to hold it up and call “**SNAP!**”

SPOONS CARD GAME

If you've never played this one before, it's an absolute classic and one we really love!

- You'll need a deck of normal **playing cards**, spoons and at least 3 players for this. The more players you have, the crazier it gets! Each player will need a spoon.
- Sort the cards so you have one set of 4 of the same value cards for each player. Eg: 4 x Kings, 4 x Queens, 4 x Jacks etc.
- Sit in a circle with the spoons in the middle – 1 per player.
- Mix up the cards and deal out 4 per player. The aim is to end up with 4 of the same, however you cannot discuss what value you are trying to collect.
- At the same time, all players must take one card from their hand and pass it to the player on their left. This should happen simultaneously so that at no point does anyone have more than 4 cards in their hand.
- The first person to reach 4 of the same value then reaches for a spoon from the middle of the circle. This is other players cue to do the same. The last player to do so loses the game.
- The player reaching for the spoon first could do it any way they want to – they might be super sneaky about it so keep your eyes peeled!

BALANCING ACT

One that is guaranteed to focus the mind!

- With one spoon each, the aim is to try balancing it on various body parts.
- Try one finger, one toe, the very tip of your tongue, and the end your nose!