

Introduction to Parachute Games

Activity

Resource: Early Learning Resource

Grade(s): Early Learning

Curriculum Expectations

6.5, 7.3

Refer to the [Kindergarten Program 2016](#) for details on the specific expectations.

Activity Learning Goals

By the end of the activity children will be able to:

- discuss and demonstrate in play what makes them happy, and why
- demonstrate strategies for engaging in cooperative play in a variety of games and activities

Equipment

- Parachute
- [Early Learning Anecdotal Recording Chart](#)

Safety

Inspect activity area for safe traction and eliminate potential hazards. Remind children to be aware of the personal space of others when running under the parachute. Students must not put any body parts through the hole in the parachute.

Assessment Opportunity

- EL-K Team observation of children’s demonstrated application of strategies for engaging in cooperative play and communication of what they enjoy about being active can be recorded on the Anecdotal Recording Chart.
- Children make the following formations following the EL-K Team’s instructions:
 - **Ripples:** Shake the parachute vigorously. Children can make ripples while jumping.
 - **Waves:** Slowly lift the parachute up and down. Use a full range of motion: “Down” is squatting down, and “up” is arms fully extended.
 - **Umbrella or mushroom:** Children start in squat position. On a group count of three, children stand and extend their arms lifting the parachute overhead. Children bring the parachute down to their toes and watch the air slowly come out of the parachute.
 - **Colour Call:** The class lifts the parachute to make a “mushroom.” When the parachute is at full height the EL-K Team calls out a colour. All children holding that colour let go of the parachute and run underneath where they shake hands with someone else under the parachute, and quickly return to their spot before the parachute floats down.

Notes to EL-K Team

- Children hold the parachute at their hips and stand up. Teach children “resting position” of the parachute—with the parachute held quietly at hips with the center hole resting on the ground (this allows the air to escape from beneath the parachute and new activities can be initiated more easily).
- An overhand or underhand grip can be used for holding the parachute.
- Reinforce the importance of listening and keeping the parachute still when listening for instructions.
- Remind children to keep their eyes open and watch to avoid collisions under the parachute.
- A large blanket could be used instead of a parachute.

Connection Questions to Expand and Enhance Play

- We used the parachute in a variety of ways today, which way is your favourite?

- How do you show respect for others when you are being active?
- Did playing with the parachute make you happy? Why or why not?