17 Games for Kids

**Guess what’s in the box!**

Each kid lists as many items as they can think of that might be inside the box. The one who comes the closest wins!

**In my purse is a story.**

Choose three items from your purse and challenge kids to invent a story around those three items.

**What’s missing?**

Place 10 items from your purse on the table in front of you. Have kids try to memorize items for 10 seconds. While their eyes are closed remove 1-3 items. After opening their eyes, kids try to remember what is missing.

**Two truths and a lie.**

Everyone takes a turn making three statements. Two are true and one is not. Family members try to guess which is the lie.

**Mirror mirror.**

Kid and parent face each other. The child starts moving very slowly and the parent tries to mirror the movements as closely as possible. Or, two children can mirror each other and the parent tries to guess who is leading the movement.

**How many can you name?**

Name a category and your child has 10 seconds to name as many things in that category as possible. Make categories general (“animals”) for young kids, and specific (“animals with no teeth”) for older kids.

**Magazine hunt.**

Turn the magazine into a scavenger hunt. Instruct kids to find certain items. Example: “Find something purple that starts with a C.”

**Penny drop.**

Take out a penny and try to drop it so it lands on your shoe without falling off.

**Scrap of paper drop.**

Drop a small scrap of paper. Kids try to catch it with two fingers before it hits the ground.

**Make me laugh.**

Without touching the other person, make them laugh. Optional: make this a silent game.

**Silly sentences.**

One person chooses 5 random letters. Kids come up with sentences in which each word starts with the designated letter. For example, HRTB. **H**arry **r**ead **t**hree **b**ooks.

**Would you rather?**

Ask each other questions which begin “would you rather”?

**Thumb war.**

Connect your fingers and wrestle it out with just your thumbs.

**Word chain.**

Choose a topic, such as food. The first person says a word, the second person says that word plus his own, the third person says the first two words plus her own, and so forth, continue until someone can no longer remember the word chain.

**Sound chain.**

One person starts a pattern using snaps or claps. The others must repeat the pattern. The first person then adds on to the pattern and the others must repeat this longer pattern. Play continues until no one can remember the pattern.

**Sound ball.**

One person mimes throwing a ball at another person while making a silly sound. The other person “catches” the ball while making the same sound. He then “throws” the ball back with a new sound. The catcher then “catches” the ball making this new sound, and then “throws” it using a different sound.

**Rainbow Scavenger Hunt.**

This can be done in the house or outside. Children find and write down one item they can find or see for each color of the rainbow.

## Pen and Paper Games

**Blind Drawing.**

Grab a pencil and paper, take a look around you and pick one object. Close your eyes and try to draw it without picking up your pencil!

**Hangman**.

This game needs no explanation, but I’ll give it to you anyway. One person thinks of a word and draws dashes along a paper to represent each letter in the word. Above the dashes he draws platform and stand. The other person guesses one letter at a time. If the letter is in the word, the first person fills in the blank(s). If not, the incorrect letter is written below and the first person draws one body part at a time.  If the person guesses the word before the body is completed (head, torso, 2 arms, 2 legs), he wins, if not — well, he loses.

**Unscramble.**

Write a list of 10 words, but instead of spelling them correctly, mix up the letters and challenge your opponent(s) to unscramble them. To make it a little more fun, select all words from a single category. For example: *kcae, kieooc, epi, ssertde, eci mreac* become *cake, cookie, pie, dessert, ice cream*. The first player to unscramble all the words wins.

**Words Within A Word.**

Write out a long word on a piece of paper or a white board if you have one. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes and everyone tries to find as many smaller words as they can using only the letters in the designated word. (*See photo below for an example.*)