

More kid activity ideas...



Piñatas are always a great kid favorite. Fill with pre wrapped miniatures and let the squeals begin as seen here at the 2007 Branch/Outlaw Family Reunion in Pink Hill, North Carolina.



Seideman family treasure for reunions to come. Kids, and there are lots of them, at the Seideman Family Reunion in Newburg, Wisconsin, were invited to color handprints.

Planning playtime activities at your reunion

Children love to play and have fun – in fact, playtime is a marvelous, natural way for kids to connect with other kids and to mix with adults of all ages.

According to Bobbie Conner, author of *Unplugged Play: No Batteries. No Plugs. Pure Fun* (Workman Publishing, 2007. Paperback, 401 pages, \$16.95), while planning your reunion you should think about two types of play to include in the festivities: 1) Playtime and games that are

just right for children to play with other children (with adult supervision), and 2) Games that get adults and children moving, playing and laughing together.

When it comes to games *just for children ...* these are a few tips and suggestions.

Prior to the reunion, select a few specific indoor or outdoor games for each age group, and assemble basic materials needed to play.

Consider these games.

Toddlers: Laundry Basketball (laundry basket and soft balls or beanbags), Follow the Leader, Toddler Soccer (playground balls)

Preschoolers: Mini Beach Blanket Toss (pillowcase and beach ball), Story-Time Stomp (children's book with a word repeated often to shout out), Simon Says

Grade-Schoolers, Preteens and Teens: Obstacle Course, Beanbag Hat Race, Skipping Rope, Flip-Flop Wheelbarrow, Three-Legged Race

Designate separate play areas for each age group at the reunion: Toddlers, Preschoolers, Grade-Schoolers, Preteens and Teens. Each group needs a safe place for age-appropriate play.

Appoint a few teens or adults to supervise and encourage play. These

folks are like camp counselors who get games started and keep play friendly.

Also, plan time for grown-ups and children to play

together. You might call this Old-Fashioned Game-Time and promote this special playtime so everyone is tuned-in and ready to play.

There are 704 (and, yes, they are numbered) games and play activities in *Unplugged Play* for toddlers to teenage.

Conner's suggestions for funny and unique games she created are Fly Swatter Volleyball (#601), Big Wig (#426), Bucket Head Games (#358, #679, #680, #681), and Fish Out-Of-Water (#662). For classic games/relays (some with a new "twist"), Conner suggests Sneaker Relay & Sneaker Scramble (#688, #687), Water Balloon Toss (& variations) (#666, #692, #695), Slippery Spoons (#362), and Bean-Bag Horseshoes (#574).

Bobbi Conner of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, is author of *Unplugged Play: No Batteries. No Plugs. Pure Fun* and host of National Public Radio's Parent's Journal.



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