



Pom Pom Ball Games

Materials You Will Need:

Pom pom mouse or other soft ball.



Games

We will start with the games for the younger ages and move on upwards.

Catch the mouse

This is an activity for babies and young toddlers. Hold the mouse by the tale and dangle the mouse around see if your young one tries to catch it. Otherwise give the mouse to your baby and let them play with it enjoying the textures. Obviously take special care that they do not put it in their mouth.

Hide Little Mousey

This is a game for three or more players and for younger children who cannot catch a ball yet. One person sits in the middle and closes their eyes and says out loud the nursery rhyme Hickory Dickory Dock finishing it off with saying tic toc three times. During this time the other players are sitting on the floor around them rolling the mouse to each other. As soon as the main player starts saying tic toc the child who has the mouse has to quickly sit on it or hide it behind them. Once the first player has finished saying the third tic toc they then open their eyes and have to guess who has the mouse. At this young age the giggling should give it away. The person with the mouse can then sit in the middle or alternatively if it is the adult sitting in the middle they can just keep sitting there and have another turn.

Cheese Time

Print out the attached picture of a cheese. Either put the picture on the floor or stick it on the inside of a cardboard box like a shoebox and let the little ones try and throw or roll the mouse in or on it. If they get it in then they get another go. If they don't, it is the next person's turn. This way they learn to take it in turns.

Confusion

A game that will confuse some adults as well as their child. The idea is to sit on the floor opposite your child and roll the mouse forward and backwards to each other. The confusion comes into place because the person who doesn't have the mouse must tell the other person what hand to use when rolling the ball. There are many adults who still get confused between their left and their right so it is a good time to start of teaching children when they are young.

Round the clock face

This game is suitable if you have several older children who are just beginning to catch. The game can get a bit lively so the children have to be warned to be careful with their throwing. They all stand in a circle and gently throw the mouse in a clockwise direction to the next child round the circle. If the catcher misses the mouse then both the thrower and the catcher have to run around the circle back to their original place with the catcher collecting the mouse along the way. The catcher then continues to throw the mouse to the next person. The game finishes when everyone has had a turn at throwing and catching. The benefit of this game is that there are no winners and losers in this game and if a child misses a catch hopefully they won't be upset because they will enjoy running round the circle. If you do want to make the game more competitive however you can make it a race between the two children running around the circle to see who can get back first to their place (obviously the catcher will have to also collect the mouse but that is their penalty for not catching the mouse).

