

SUMMARY

A vigorous, popular team game.

Balloon bash tournament

What you need

A large, clear space; a packet of balloons.

What to do

- Teams should be five to eight a side, but two or three games can be played at the same time, with play leaders or referees in charge of each.
- Teams of equal number sit in a row facing each other, with about a step's gap between the teams.
- The play leader drops a balloon in between the teams. They have to try to score a goal by batting it over the heads of the opposing team so that it lands on the floor behind them.
- The play leader keeps count of the score. The first team to score five goals wins.
- If there are two or three games running, then winning and losing teams can swap over and play each other so that there is an overall winner.

Ground rules

- Define the areas at each end of the teams in which the balloon will be declared 'out'. Use markers if necessary.
- The children must sit down. If their bottoms leave the floor, they must sit out until the next goal is scored (by either side).
- After each goal, the play leader should drop the balloon in the middle of the teams again, varying the position, so that all players have a chance to start first.
- After each game, another play leader should be chosen so the previous one can play in the next game.
- If a balloon bursts, another one should be supplied with no penalties to either side.

Differentiation

Younger children will need to sit closer to each other. Get them to touch feet with their opposite team member. They will find it impossible to stay on their bottoms, so allow them to kneel down as long as they do not crawl around the floor after the balloon.

