

# Hidden Treasure Games

Hidden Treasure games offer fun ways to get children moving from one place to another while also working on social and cognitive skills.

The concept of these games is simple . . . you hide “treasures” and the children find them. You can change the game up in many ways and all children can be challenged while achieving success!

## Save the Critter

- Set out 10 cones in your play space
- Hide a critter under each cone
- At one side of your play space, set out a bucket for each type of critter. Label the buckets with a picture and name of the critter
- Have athletes find a critter and then put it in the appropriate bucket

### Make it Harder:

Set the cones farther apart

Hide less critters than cones

### Make it Easier:

Set the cones closer together OR farther apart if a child with a wheelchair or walker needs to get through

Use less cones and critters

### Add in Cognitive Skills:

Have children identify the animal and/or make its sound

Once the game is done, count how many of each animal are in the buckets

### Add in Social Skills:

Have children work together to find the critters

After the game is over, help children ask each other which critters they found



## Flower Power

In this game the “flowers” are not hidden but the children do get to practice locomotor and other skills. This is a great game to do in the spring when flowers begin to bloom.

Set out 10 – 15 cones in your play space

- Put a scarf in the top of each cone to represent a flower (You can also buy fake flowers at the dollar store)
- At one side of your play space, set out a few buckets or baskets (You can also use plastic vases)
- Have athletes “pick” the flowers and put them in a bucket or basket

### Make it Harder:

Set the cones farther apart

Put more than one scarf or flower in the top of the cone so they are harder to get out

### Make it Easier:

Set the cones closer together OR farther apart if a child with a wheelchair or walker needs to get through

### Add in Cognitive Skills:

Have the athlete count how many flowers he/she picks

### Add in Social Skills:

Have the athletes give a “flower” to another athlete, volunteer or family member

## Pirate Treasure



- Set out 10 – 15 cones or upside-down buckets in your play space Hide some pirate treasure (something fun but not a choking hazard) under each cone or bucket
- On one side of the play space, place a pirate treasure box (you can decorate a cardboard box)
- Have athletes find the hidden pirate treasure and return it to the treasure box

### Make it Harder:

Set out floor markers in between the cones and have athletes step only on the floor markers to get to the cones and back to the treasure chest

Hide less treasure than there are cones

### Make it Easier:

Set out less cones

Set out buckets face up so athletes can see and reach the treasure more easily

### Add in Cognitive Skills:

Tell the athletes a story to make the game more interesting (A pirate buried his/her treasure on an island, etc . . )

### Add in Social Skills:

Have the athletes work in pairs to find the treasure

Have an athlete tell or retell the story of the pirate and his/her treasure



### Alphabet Soup: A Quick Preschool Learning Game



## Alphabet Soup

- Set out 26 cones in your play space
- Hide a card with a letter of the alphabet under the cones (you can also have an item that begins with the letter sound if you would like)
- On one side of the play space set out a large soup pot or bucket
- Explain that you are going to make alphabet soup and that the children need to find the letters and add them to the soup pot
- Have athletes find the hidden letters and put them in the soup pot

### Make it Easier:

Only select a few letters at first

Set out buckets face up so athletes can see and reach the letters more easily

### Add in Cognitive Skills:

Make this game similar to the game of concentration by hiding some letter cards as well as some objects with the same beginning sounds as the letter you hide. Have children find a letter and a corresponding object before putting them into the soup pot.

### Add in Social Skills:

Have children take turns “stirring” the soup and giving a “taste” to a friend

### Cultural Awareness:

Have children talk about what soup they like to eat at home

**Have fun thinking of NEW and CREATIVE variations to this game!**