

GAMES:

Shoe Box Relay

Each team will put on the mittens, step into the shoe boxes and race to the other end of the room where they will ring the bell with their nose. They are then to pick up a tootsie roll out of the bowl and race back to their team still wearing their mittens and shoe boxes. Pass the mittens and shoe box to the next person in line, sit down, eat your tootsie roll. The first team to finish eating their tootsie rolls wins!

Happy Feet!

Freeze dance renamed!

Pin the Carrot on the Snowman

This game is just like the classic "pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey," but themed for winter. Start by drawing a large snowman on a piece of poster board and then drawing and cutting out a carrot "nose" for each child in the class. Write each child's name on one of the noses ahead of time to avoid confusion at the party and use scotch tape donuts or sticky putty on the back. Blindfold each child one by one, spin each one around a few times, and watch where they try to stick the noses. The child whose nose is closest to the correct spot wins. (Make your own or there is a game available at Target.)

Marshmallow Snowman Craft

For a fun craft and a tasty treat, you can make marshmallow snowmen in conjunction with, or instead of, the traditional activity of making gingerbread houses out of graham crackers. Using a graham cracker as your base and frosting as your adhesive, layer three large marshmallows and attach chocolate chips as the eyes. You can even insert candy canes for the arms. An alternative take on the same general craft is to use toothpicks and small marshmallows to build the size and shape of the snowman you want.

Materials: Large Marshmallows, Chocolate Chips, Graham Crackers, Frosting, Candy canes or pretzels

Snowball Hot Potato

This game is played just like the game Hot Potato. For a snowball, use a white beanbag, ball or fill a white balloon with flour. You will need a cd player with Christmas / Holiday music

OR

Hot Chocolate Hot Potato

Pass the hot chocolate - get a box of hot chocolate packets from a local store. Play the song from the Polar Express movie, Hot Chocolate and have the kids pass around the box. When the music stops, whoever is holding the box gets a hot chocolate packet. The winner stays in the game and play continues until "conveniently" everyone in the group has won a hot chocolate packet

Penguin Relay

Kids race to see who's team can complete a course while walking / running with a balloon in between their knees so they look like a penguin. Teams line up at the starting point. They hand off the balloon to the next player. The players can't touch the balloon with their hands unless they are behind the start line handing the balloon to the next person. First team to have everyone across the finish line wins. If they accidentally drop the balloon they must return start line and begin again.

North Pole Iceberg Scurry

Teams must move across an area using only pieces of poster board. Cut large ice burg shapes from paper about 10 x 12 inches each. Teams are given one more iceberg than the total number in their team. Tell the teams they can only use the icebergs given to them to get from one end of the room to the other. Teams use the iceberg pieces to move by having players stand on the ice burgs all together. Then they take the back ice burg and move it to the front of the line and so on. If a player steps off the ice burg into the water they all go back and begin again.

Snowball Chop Relay Game

Students move cotton balls (snowballs) from one bowl to the next using chopsticks while blindfolded. For team play, set out two bowls for each team. Fill teams' bowls with equal number of cotton balls. Give teams a set of chopsticks and a blindfold. One by one blindfold team members and set them in front of the bowls. Give them the chopsticks. They have to transfer the cotton balls into the other bowl. This is harder than it looks! When one player has finished transferring all the balls the next player in line puts on the blindfold and continues until everyone on the team has completed the task.

Snowball Relay

This party game is played like the egg and spoon relay only it is played using a "snowball" (cotton ball). Set up the playing field with a start line and a point across the playing field that the guests have to run around and then go back to start. Divide party guests into two teams and give each team a wooden spoon or plastic spoon and a cotton ball. One by one the teams must place the "snowball" on the spoon and run to the turn around point and back without dropping the "snowball". When they reach start they hand off the "snowball" to the next player and they run the course. If the "snowball" falls off the spoon the player must return to start and begin again. The players can't touch the "snowball" with their hands at any point of the game. If they do they must return to start and begin again.

Winter Dress Relay

Relay races are a lot of fun for kids, and this one will provide lots of laughter and silliness, as well as some great photo ops. Start by dividing the group into two teams and having each team form a line behind a designated starting line. At the other end of the room or space, each team will have an identical pile of winter clothing, such as a hat, scarf, mittens, boots, coat, etc. The kids will have to race, one at a time, to the pile of clothing, put on each item, take it off again, and race back to tag the next one in line. The team who completes the relay first, wins. Try oversized clothing for younger kids, as this will be easier for them to get on and off.

Name That Tune

This game is fun for older kids who have a little more life experience and can write well and relatively quickly, usually grades 2 through 5. Give each child a piece of paper and have them number down the side according to how many songs you're going to have them guess. Then, play instrumental versions of favorite holiday songs and have the kids write down the title. The child(ren) who get the most answers right, win(s). To make it more difficult for older kids, try playing a more obscure part of the song than the chorus, such as a verse only or the bridge and see who can come up with the song titles.

Blind Snowman

Challenge the kids at your party to draw something with their eyes closed. To play the blind snowman game, have the kids sit around a table. Hand out a sheet of paper and a pencil to each child. Ask them to close their eyes and draw the following without looking at their papers:

1. Draw a small circle at the top of the paper.
2. Draw a bigger circle under the small one.
3. Draw the biggest circle under the middle one.
4. Draw three buttons in the middle circle.
5. Draw two eyes, a mouth and a carrot nose in the top circle.
6. On top of the smallest circle, draw a hat.
7. Draw stick arms coming out of the middle circle.
8. Draw a broomstick attached to one of the stick arms.

Have kids open their eyes and share their creations. Kids can have a laugh over the results, or you can award points to those who came close to drawing a complete snowman. For instance, give three points for any snowman with all three circles in the right place, two points for eyes, mouth and nose in the top circle and one point for each arm. You can determine the point values prior to playing the game, and the player who ends with the highest score wins.

Crafts:

Old Fashioned Party Crackers

You use toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tubes and wrap with tissue paper and tie with pipe cleaners. You also put a pipe cleaner through the middle to make the "cracker strip" and put a little trinket or candy inside. Kids can decorate with stickers etc.

New Year's Party Hats

Make your own New Years hats! Decorate with glitter and stickers.

Snowflakes!

Cut snowflakes out of white paper and paste onto light blue cards.

On white cards glue sparkly white and silver glitter on the top or in a line going down the front of the invitation.

Glue white feathers on the top of plain blue note cards and write party information inside with a blue pen or sharpie.

Make the invitation look like a snow globe.

Paper Plate Snowman



What you'll need:

3 miniature paper plates
Orange and black construction paper
2 black chenille stems
1 white chenille stem
Light blue chenille stem
2 large green pom poms
Scrap material for scarf
3 medium sized buttons
Black marker
Pink crayon
White craft glue
Tape

How to make it:

1. Line the paper plates up like a snowman, one above the other. The plates should be front side down. Use a pen to poke a hole at the bottom of the top plate, about 1/2" above the lip of the plate.
2. On the second plate, poke two holes, one at the top and one at the bottom, again, about 1/2" above the lip.
3. On the last plate, poke only one hole at the top.
4. Cut white chenille stem into thirds. Insert one of those chenille pieces into the hole on the first plate. Take the other end of that chenille piece and poke it through the top hole of the second plate. This will join the two plates together. Twist the ends of the chenille together snugly at the back side of the plates. Use a

piece of tape to secure the chenille ends down and cover the holes so that they don't rip.

5. Take another third of the chenille and poke it through the holes at the bottom of the middle plate and the top of the bottom plate. Repeat the twisting and taping process from step #4. Save the last third of the chenille stem for a different project.

6. Cut a long triangle out of orange construction paper for the nose, round the edges if you like. Glue to the center of the first paper plate.

7. Use black marker to draw on eyes and mouth.

8. Use pink crayon to color a cheek.

9. Cut the blue chenille stem (if needed) to fit around the top of the first paper plate. This will form the band for your snowman's ear muffs. Glue to the plate and then glue the green pom poms at each end for the muffs.

10. Glue three buttons to the center paper plate. (See full the photo of the snowman.)

11. Cut two simple boots from black construction paper and glue to the bottom plate.

12. Tie a piece of scrap material around the snowman's neck for a scarf.

Tips:

1. Save old or outgrown boxer shorts for crafts! The plaid material pattern works great for projects like these. If you are uncomfortable with this, save old t-shirts that are not worthy of clothing donation instead.

2. Save old and mismatched buttons or buy bags at the craft or thrift store.

3. We used miniature paper plates for our project, however regular sized plates can also be used.