

Limbo

This game is usually played on the shallow end deck. The equipment required is one mat (either the thin pink or yellow one) with the green aquafit mat over top. You may use a noodle as the “limbo stick”, and start about the height of your shoulder. After the participants have had one turn lower the “stick” until each participant has had about 4-5 turns.

Hide and Seek

This game involves hiding objects around the pool deck, and then making an announcement over the PA for the patrons to try and find the objects. Some objects that have worked well are pennies, pencils, paperclips, chess pieces etc. The number of “pennies” hidden depends on the number of patrons; anywhere from five to twenty “pennies” seems to work well.

Ball Game

You will need the red ball that is usually hanging in front of the diving board (be sure to clip the rope on to the railings of the diving board!) Bring the red ball into the guard room and tape pieces of paper on to the ball either with numbers on them or drawings (i.e. stars, happy faces, hearts) The pieces of paper should be about the size of your hand. Once again the number of pieces of paper should depend on the number of patrons. Place the ball back on the same hook and raise it up to the height that the kids will be able to jump and rip off a number but not too low so that they will sit on the ball. The object of this game is to jump off the diving board and try and rip one of the pieces of paper off the ball. Each piece of paper represents a prize.

Important things to watch out for: only one bounce off the diving board, make sure it’s clear before they jump off the diving board, that each kid only get one prize per game etc.

Basketball Shootout

Get the kids to line up behind the second black line (approx. 5-7 meters) away from the basketball hoop. For each basket they receive a prize. Be sure to put a maximum number of baskets per kid, otherwise the same kids will keep coming back. (I.e. they can win twice this game.)

Ball in Bucket

Have the kids line up behind the big slide and give the first person in line a ball. The object of the game is to try and throw the ball in the bucket while they are sliding down the slide. The bucket is placed near the bottom of the slide, on the right hand side. The ball doesn't necessarily have to stay in the bucket, if it lands in then bounces out, that's Okay.

Tennis Ball Toss

Place two kickboards against each other (like an upside down V) and place a rubber duck on the top (or any kind of object). Have the kids throw a tennis ball from about 12-15 meters away and try to knock down the duck and/or kickboards over. Be careful of anything behind the game (i.e. open door, people sitting down) because the kids tend to throw the balls very hard. Each time they knock the duck /kickboards over they get a prize.

Tarzan

Have the kids line up behind the rope swing and place a hula-hoop in the water. The hula hoop should be placed approximately where the kids will be letting go of the rope (far away from the wall) because the object of this game is to land through the hula hoop feet first. Each time they go through the hula-hoop they get a prize. A variation is to place two or three hula-hoops and the further the hula-hoop is that they land through the bigger the prize.

Math game

On the wall in the shallow end (underneath the clock) place three or four math problems on the wall and give each participant a piece of paper and pencil. Have them write down the correct answers to the questions and win a prize.

Here is an example: (you'd be surprised how smart these kids are)

$$6+7+11-12 \times 2+16-12 \times 3-11+4+10=?$$

Word game

Make up a sentence and then place the letters from that sentence on pieces of paper around the pool on the wall. Each piece of paper will include the letter and what number the letter is in the phrase. Here is an example;

My phrase is: The Panorama is the place to play.

Therefore, I'd place pieces of paper around the pool, in random order, which looked like this.

Send the kids out with a pencil and piece of paper and have them place the letters in the correct order to make up your phrase.

Red Mat Game

Have the kids line up behind the red mat, and time them individual as they run from the beginning to the end of the mat. The fastest three people (or five) receive a prize.

Diving Game

Place a cone at the bottom of the pool, and time each individual as they dive down to the bottom and bring the cone back up to the deck. Once again the three fastest people receive a prize.

Noodle Race

Have each kid sit on a noodle (like a horse) and have them race each other from the shallow end wall to the black line and back. A variation to this game could have them partner up on one noodle.

Crazy Dance Contest

Gather the kids into the shallow end and announce over the PA that you are looking for whoever can do the biggest splashes. Have them work at this for about a minute while there is music playing and you are picking the winners out of the crowd. Other contests you can do are: jumps, turns, and craziest dance, act like a monkey, like a chicken, best handstands etc. Try to involve as many contests into this game when you play it. Each mini contest lasts approximately one minute

Diving Board Catch

Have the kids line up behind the diving board and after they jump off the board (while they are in mid-air) you toss them a ball. If they catch the ball in mid-air they win a prize!

Bowling

Set up the bowling pins at one end of deck and have the kids bowl the black ball from about 10 meters away. Tell them they have to knock over at least two of the four pins to win a prize.

Face Painting

Set up our face painting kit on a table on the shallow end deck. The paint is kept in the guardroom and will wash off in the water almost immediately.

Hockey Shoot Out

Place two kickboards approximately four feet away from each other and use them as the goal. Give the kids a hockey stick and a tennis ball and try and have them “shoot” the ball through the goal. Have the kids stand about 8 meters away.

Water Bucket Brigade

Divide the kids into two equal groups, and give each group one cup and one bucket (an ice cream bucket or larger). The idea of the game is to see which team can fill up the bucket the fastest by using only the cup. Each team member is given a turn to fill up the cup of water from the pool then dump it into the bucket and hand off the cup to the next player. Continue this until one of the buckets is filled.

Murals

Place two or three large pieces of paper around the pool deck and give each paper a theme (ex: under the sea, the future, Disneyland, what I love to eat etc.). Put a bucket of felts below each mural and allow the kids to draw pictures related to the themes. Pick the most creative drawing from each mural and give the artist a prize (either while they are drawing or have the kids sign their name below their drawings).

Water Balloon Toss

Just like the dry version. Usually played on the shallow end deck. Have the kids move further apart after each toss. Be extra careful that at the end of the game every piece of balloon is picked up and thrown in the garbage!

Float a Boat

Give each team the same amount of newspaper and masking tape and tell them they have ten minutes to make the best boat. Gather all the boats and test each boat individually by placing weight on them and gradually increasing the weight (small rocks from outside work well by adding them one at a time). Whichever boat stays afloat the longest (with the most weight) WINS!

Joke Contest

Have the kids line up and tell you their most favourite clean joke and then announce the three funniest jokes over the PA. Have the rest of the pool cheer for their favourite joke and award the prizes accordingly.

Musical Kickboards

Have the kids move around in a circle and place the kickboards in the middle (if there are 10 kids playing place 9 kickboards, if there are 6 kids playing place 5 kickboards in the middle, etc.) While the music is playing they move around in a circle. Once the music stops they each grab a kickboards and the one left standing without a kickboard is eliminated from the game. Continue this process until only two people remain from the game. Award prizes accordingly.

Salt Cracker Whistle

Line up as many kids that want to play and give each kid two or three crackers. Have them all eat them at the same time. The first one to whistle is the winner! (Trust me it is a lot harder than it sounds!)

Jello Eating Contest

This can either be played in partners, when one partner is blindfolded and they try to feed the Jello to their partner or individually (when they eat the Jello without using their hands. Whoever is finished their Jello the fastest is the winner.

Scavenger Hunt

Give the kids a list of things they need to gather up from around the pool deck. A list of about 8-10 objects usually work best. You can use anything from: find something that floats, that sinks, that is blue, that has a hole in it, something round, something white etc. use your imagination. It will be easiest if you post this list on the black or white board so everyone can see it.

Rope Climb

Lower the rope swing to a vertical position in the deep end and time each kid individually as they climb up to a certain point on the rope. Be careful to ensure that the area is clear of other patrons! Once again the three fastest times are awarded a prize.

Chubby Bunny

Using marshmallows have the kids stick as many in their mouth at one time and try to repeat the phrase “Chubby Bunny”. The one with the most marshmallows in their mouth and still saying the magic phrase wins!