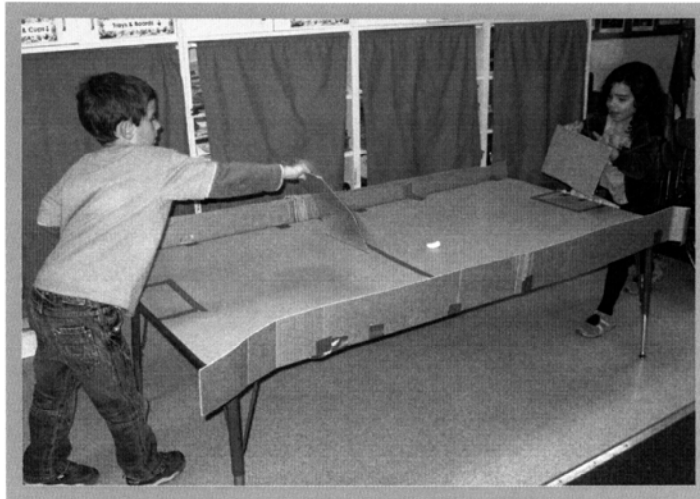


Air Soccer



WHAT TO DO

1. Work with a small group of children. Two children stand on opposite ends of the table, each holding an 8" x 8" cardboard piece. Invite them to fan their faces with the cardboard so they can feel the *air* move.
2. A third child places a packing noodle in the center of the table. The children with cardboard try to fan the packing noodle to the goal at the opposite end of the table. Tell them, "Use only *wind* power. No touching the noodle."
3. The children enjoy moving the packing noodle up and down the table. There is no need to keep score. If other children are waiting, set a timer to take turns.
4. Invite the children to observe where it works best to fan the packing noodle—behind it or above it. This is a good opportunity for you to reinforce directional vocabulary words, such as *above*, *behind*, and *in front of*.



FOCUS AREAS

- Science:** experimenting with air movement
- Gross Motor:** practicing eye-hand coordination

MATERIALS

- Packing noodle
- 2 rigid cardboard pieces about 8" x 8"
- Cardboard strips about 5" wide, enough to cover both long sides of a classroom table
- Table
- Masking tape
- Sand timer (optional)

PREPARATION

- Create a "playing field" by taping strips of cardboard about 5" high to the sides of a table.
- Make goals at the ends of the table with masking tape. (See photo)
- Mark the centerline with masking tape.
- Cut cardboard into two pieces that are about 8" x 8".

SUPERSIZE IT!

The children can play *air* soccer indoors or outdoors with a light beach ball or partially inflated sturdy balloon on the ground. Remind the children not to kick the ball. Say, "In this game, only the *wind* can touch or move the ball." Several children may need to fan together to get a beach ball to move. **Safety note:** If a balloon pops, it is essential to pick up **all** the pieces.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Use these questions to spark children's thinking during and after the activity:

- How can you make the packing noodle go where you want?
- Which type of fanning works best, light waves or strong waves?
- How is this game like any other games you have played?

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Use these questions to determine a child's abilities and understanding:

- Can the child manipulate the cardboard?
- Does the child try different methods of fanning?
- Does the child enjoy the game?