

# Make It a Game!

Here are some easy and fun ways to make an activity, such as **cleanup or a transition**, into a game!

Making a game out of an activity can often help promote cooperation and **turn a “no” into a “yes!”**

- 1** Pretend that a container is a **basketball net**, and cheer when children “make a basket” by placing items in it.
- 2** Pretend that a bag or toy box is a **hungry, talking mouth** that needs to be fed. For example, use a deep or funny voice to say, “I’m still hungry; feed me!” or “Delicious! More cars, please!” as children place toys inside to feed it.
- 3** Park toys on a shelf (or line them up in a box), and pretend that it is a **parking garage**.
- 4** **Drive, fly, and skid toys** off ramps and into containers.
- 5** Pretend a lid on a box or container is a **mechanical door** that is closing very slowly. Add your own motorized sound effects, and announce that all of the toys need to get inside before the door closes completely.
- 6** Pretend toys or objects are **going to sleep**, and whisper, “Goodnight, let’s tuck you in... Everybody get in bed. Shh, don’t wake them up!”
- 7** **Animate toys** so they seem alive and excited to go into containers, for example, “I’m falling in the bag... Weeeee, it’s a long way down!” or “I’m jumping in the water... 1, 2, 3, jump! Splash! Come on, guys, jump in!”
- 8** **Race** to see who or which team can clean up the fastest. Can the children put all the pieces back in the bucket faster than their teacher? Ready, set, go!
- 9** Create a fun way for children to **move their bodies** from one place to another: jump to..., tiptoe to..., walk backwards to...
- 10** Choose an **animal action** to move to the next place or activity: jump like a rabbit, slither like a snake, chomp like an alligator, or swing like a monkey.

From the *Connect with Me: Promoting Early Social & Emotional Development* course series, Part 5.  
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