

Kim's Game in a bag

This game is ideal for a small group of young children. Thirty to thirty five is about the maximum number. It encourages recognition of objects and also improves the memory of objects positions and their spatial relationship with other objects. It is also a good game to play at the start of the party as children are arriving as they can join in as they arrive.

You will require:

1 soap bag or ladies cosmetic bag.

1 large square head scarf

12 assorted items. The more varied, interesting, or comical these items are the better.

Our friend Norman Greene, a seasoned performer and entertainer of children, used a variety of small toys. Some of these were clockwork and moved about when he took them out of the bag and placed them on the floor. Others made a noise when picked up. This increases the children's awareness.

To play the game:

Get the children to sit down on the floor in a circle. All the twelve items should be in the bag with the head scarf on top. Sit down in the circle where all the children will be able to see you. Introduce the bag and tell them that you have lots of interesting things in the bag to show the children. Take out the head scarf first and then each of the other items in turn. If you have clockwork items in the bag which are wound up they will start to move as you put them on the floor. You can look annoyed as they do this, pick them up and tell them not to be naughty. When you place them back on the floor again they start to move again which makes you become even more cross with them. This sounds cold in print but believe me younger children find this to be very funny indeed.

When all the items have been placed on the floor, tell the children that they have a minute to look at all the items on the floor and to remember where each one is. After a minute you will cover all the items with the large head scarf and then you will take one of the items away. The first child with their hand up, who can tell you correctly what you have taken away, wins a point, or a small prize if you are running a party.

When we play this game we often pick up the scarf without picking up any item. This makes the children think. When asked what has been taken away, it often takes quite a while before one clever child says nothing.

When you have finished playing the game, all the items are put carefully back into the bag ready for the next show.

It doesn't cost very much to make up this game but it keeps a small group of young children amused for ages.