



Fun Games to Play While Standing in Line | Show Notes

“I’m BORED!” Have you ever heard this phrase while waiting in line with some kids? You might be waiting in line for the bathroom, waiting to transition to the next event, and so on. If you ignore this signal, you’ll soon be saying things like **“Stop that!”** or **“Get back here!”**

Instead, why not say, **“Let’s play a game!”** In our NEWEST VIDEO, we’ll go through a list of no-prep and low-prep waiting games to keep you in control when there are unexpected halts in the children’s program.

Some of the games will need a little space, but many of them can be played with the children standing in line. We’ll start our list with the simplest games first, and then move on to the more complex games.

01 I Spy...

I Spy starts with the leader saying, “I spy, with my little eye, something (color).” The children can take turns guessing what it is. The one who guesses correctly first becomes the next leader.

02 I’m Thinking Of...

The leader can think of something visible to the group, and the children take turns asking “yes/no” questions. The child who guesses the answer gets to be the leader for the next round.

03 20 Questions

The leader can think of anything and the group only has 20 tries to ask “yes/no” questions to discover what it is.

04 Simon Says

The leader faces the group and says, “Simon says (action)” and does the action (e.g., touch your shoulders, jump up and down, etc.). The group can obey the command as long as it is prefaced with “Simon says.” If a command is not prefaced with “Simon says” and someone in the group does it, they are out of the game until the next round.

05 Do This, Not That

The leader will begin by saying “Do this” and simultaneously do an action (touch his head, touch his knees, etc.). The group should follow his lead.

But if the leader says “Do that” and does an action, the group should not follow his lead but remain still in their previous pose.

06 Statues

Start a verbal countdown, or play some music, at the end of which the children need to freeze in place for a predetermined amount of time (e.g., 10 seconds). The one who stays the most still can become the next leader (or just select a winner out of the finalists).

Optional: Anyone who moves is out until the round is over. You can play 3-5 times per round, and then let everyone join in the new round (so kids don't get bored waiting on the sidelines).

Optional: Give the kids a theme to work with, like “animals,” “activities,” or “people.”

07 Charades

Have the leader act out a story, an occupation, or an animal. Have the children guess what it is. Select a new leader or have the one who guessed fastest be next.

08 Two Things at Once

Have the children do two things at once (e.g., rub your stomach and pat your head; hop on one leg and clap; spin and snap fingers; do jumping jacks while reviewing the memory verse).

09 Would You Rather...?

Divide the area into two sections. Call out a “Would you rather...” statement.

Would you rather:

Have a cat or a dog?

Be cold or hot?

Have pizza or a burger?

Take a train or a plane?

Have the children go to whichever side they identify with.

10 Crazy Stand Ups

Call out different things that a variety of the students might have in common.

Stand up if you...

Were born in the month of June!

Are 7 years old!

Are wearing shoes with laces!

Have long hair!

Have brown eyes!

Have a pet!

Love pizza!

The ones to whom it applies have to stand up.

Optional: Make it a review game by having those who stood up recite the memory verse.

11 What's the Same?

Pick two items that everyone can see (or knows) and ask, "What's the same?" The children can point out any similarities (there may be more than one).

12 Guess Who

Think of someone who is present, or someone that the whole group knows, and have the children take turns asking "yes/no" questions in the vein of the Guess Who? children's game.

They can ask things like:

Is it a boy?

Do they have blue eyes?

Do they have gray hair?

Are they older than 50?

The winner gets to pick the next person for the group to guess.

13 Copycat

Have someone leave the area (or close their eyes and plug their ears). Have the group sit in a circle and choose a leader. The leader is the one who starts and changes the movements of the group (snapping fingers, patting knees, etc.). Everyone needs to be aware but not pay overt attention to the leader.

Once everyone's ready, bring back the person who stepped away. Have them stand in the center of the circle. They have to guess who the leader is. If they guess correctly, the leader becomes the person in the middle and the group selects a new leader. For fun, you can give the person a certain number of guesses.

14 Passing the “Ball”

Get a small item, like a pen cap, coin, bounce ball, key or keychain. Any item can work as long as it’s small enough.

Have the group sit in a circle, shoulder to shoulder, ideally with hands behind their backs. Have one person in the middle with their eyes closed while the small item is given to a person in the circle to start. When they’re ready, the person in the middle opens their eyes and tries to guess who has the item while the rest of the group tries to pass it around the circle. If someone is caught with the item, they must become the person in the middle.

For more of a challenge, have the round end if either the person in the middle catches someone red-handed, or when the item makes it around the circle and back to the starting point.

15 Rock, Paper, Scissors

Each person will pair up with a partner and say, “Rock, paper, scissors, shoot!” then make a rock, paper, or scissors sign with their hand. Rock beats scissors, scissors beats paper, and paper beats rock. You can play for as long as you want.

Optional: Rock, Paper, Scissors King’s Court version.

Line up the group and have them pair up.

Assign the pair on one end as the King’s Court (the first “station”).

All together, have every pair play a round of Rock, Paper, Scissors. You can do best two out of three (or for speed, play only once).

The loser of the match stays where they are while the winner moves up the line (in the direction of the king) to the next “station,” and then everyone plays again. The loser of the King’s Court match goes to the other end of the line (the last “station”).

If a pair ties, they both stay where they are and the winner of the match beneath them can leapfrog past them to the next station.

➤➤➤ Want more on this topic? | Suggested Resources

- Video (Top 10 Attention Grabbers of All Time): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMZQBCwHYrM>
- Video (How to Eliminate Dead Time): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4kwC-oj6lc>



When was a time you had to wait in line unexpectedly with a group of kids? What did they naturally start doing while waiting?



Which waiting games do you like the best? Which ones do you like the least? Why?



Which waiting games would be best if you and your group had to wait quietly?

My Action Step

➤➤➤ Want more? | Additional Resources

Congratulations on taking one more step in your journey of learning and personal growth!

THANK YOU for taking the time to invest in yourself today so that you can be a better children's ministry leader tomorrow.

THANK YOU for investing in the next generation and living in light of eternity.

We want to encourage and equip you for greater ministry impact, so please utilize the following resources!

“
If we stop learning
today, we stop
teaching tomorrow.
- Howard G. Hendricks
”

More training resources!

- Children's ministry training: www.youtube.com/@TrainingontheGoVideos/videos
- Devotionals: www.inthegap.org/edify/
- Courses: www.inthegap.org/resources/

Volunteer at an after-school Bible Club!

- What is a Bible Club: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwcDxYMNleY
- His life was changed at Bible Club: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cx2EfuBlecM
- Join the mission: www.mission414.net/

Fun & educational resources for kids!

- Christian puppet videos for kids: www.youtube.com/@InTheGapKids/videos
- Character lessons, videos, and downloads: www.inthegapkids.org/
- Character curriculum for kids' ministry: www.inspirecurriculum.com/

See what God is doing and get involved!

- Summer missions for youth: www.inthegap.org/operationimpactoverview/
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/inthegap.ok/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/inthegapokc/
- Newsletter updates straight to your inbox: www.inthegap.org/subscribe/