

## BEACH BALL FUN!

**Action Word Catch** Write an action word on each segment of the ball – jump, spin, chicken dance, etc. Have kids throw the ball back and forth. Where ever their hands land when they catch the ball is the action they have to do. The funnier the actions the better!

**Hot Potato Beach Ball** – Play hot potato with a beach ball. Have everyone sit in a circle and pass the ball around while music is playing. Whoever gets caught holding the ball when the music stops becomes the music player

**Beach Ball Math** - To keep math skills up over the summer while having fun, write numbers on each segment of the ball. Have the kids decide on a math function (addition/subtraction for younger kids, division/multiplication for older kids) before you start the game. Throw the ball to the first child and have them call out the number their right hand is on. They then throw the ball to the next child who calls out the number their right hand is on. They throw the ball to the next child who combines those two numbers with the function decided before the game starts.

**Beach Ball Toss** – Get two or more kids to grab the ends of a beach towel and place the ball on the towel. Have them work together to throw the ball up in the air and catch it in the towel.

**Blanket Toss** - Have each child hold the corners of a sheet or blanket. Place the beach ball on top of the blanket and instruct them to toss it as high as it will go, then catch it on the blanket. See how many times they can catch it in a row before it hits the ground.

**Letter/Color Smash** - Use colored construction paper to write letters and attach to any wall/door. The older your children are, the more complicated you can make it (using sight words, the answers to math equations, etc.). Draw a line on the floor using masking tape, then have them aim the ball at the letters or colors as you call them out.

**Beach Basketball** - Grab an empty laundry hamper and set it across the room. Using your masking tape, draw a line on the floor at an appropriate distance per age. Then use a watch or timer and see how many baskets they can make in a minute.

**Beach Ball Bowling** - Choose a hallway (**the walls serve as natural bumpers**) and set up your bowling pins. This is the part where you can **get creative**. The pins should be light, since the ball is light. (We used some empty cereal boxes but water bottles would also work really well. Then just try to get that strike.

**Catch and Do** - Write silly instructions with a marker on each color of the beach ball. Then have the children start to play toss. As they catch the ball, they check what color their hand lands on, and do that action. **The funny part:** They have to keep doing that action until they catch the ball again. **Here are some ideas:**

- Do a silly dance
- Tell a joke
- Bark like a dog
- Jump up and down
- Hop on one foot
- Spin around in a circle

**“Foot” Ball** - Have your child take off his/her shoes, and lay on the floor with their feet in the air. Place the ball on/between their feet, and see how long they can hold it there.

**Tip:** You can use a *washable marker*. It'll wipe right off with a wet paper towel, so you can change up your phrases the next time you play.