

Here are some ideas of games to play before the parade

1) Ball in the cup. From Central America and Mexico. It's called capuricho in El Salvador, bola in Nicaragua, balero in Mexico, and boliche in Costa Rica. I have two at home that we can use. To play, you swing the string to try to catch the ball in the cup. See how many times in a row you can do it. Beginners play three strikes and you're out. After three tries, it's the next person's turn.

2) 1, 2, 3 Dragon. For 10 or more participants. 1,2,3 Dragon originated in China and is played by small children, usually to celebrate the New Year. During the Chinese New Year they have dancing dragons., games and food. Dragons are important because they mean good luck.

Variations of the game are played all over the world, but with different rules, scoring, and names.

1,2,3 Dragon originated in China and is played by small children, usually to celebrate the New Year.

During the Chinese New Year they have dancing dragons., games and food. Dragons are important because they mean good luck.

- 10 or more people form a line with each player holding the shoulders of the person in front of them.
- The person in the front is the "Head."
- The person at the back of the line is the "Tail."

To Begin:

- The tail shouts "1,2,3 dragon."
- The head leads the line and tries to catch the tail.
- The line must stay together the whole time.

End of a Round:

- If the dragon breaks, the dragon dies. The head moves to the end of the line and becomes the tail.
- If the head catches the tail play stops and the head goes to the end of the line.

- The second person in line now becomes the head.

Object:

- The object is to tag the tail as many times as you can while you are the head. A point is scored for each successful tag. Some people prefer to play without points.

3) Cake Walk

Requires donated baked goods, tape for the floor, music and box of numbered tickets.

Players: One for each square in the circle – usually 12-18

How to play: Mark off on the walk area a circle with numbered squares and have corresponding tickets numbered. Players are to start out standing on a square that is numbered, one person per square. Start playing music and when it stops players should end up on a numbered square. Once everyone has a number to stand on, pull out a numbered ticket. The player standing on the corresponding number wins a baked goodie. This is a very popular game so make sure that you have a lot of numbered squares. If no one is standing on one of the numbers pulled, pull out another number until someone wins.

4) Tic Tac Toss

Lay down tape on carpet or hard floor for the squares. Give players only 4 bags to try to complete three in a row. Tape down a throwing line for younger players about 5 feet away and for older players about 6 feet away.

5) Snake Pit

Write a number, "1", "2" or "3," on the bottom of several plastic snakes and place them in a large bucket. Use super glue to attach a magnet to each snake. Attach another magnet to a string tied to a large wooden dowel. The children must toss the string into the snake pit and try to bring up a snake. Create three prize buckets labeled "1, 2 and 3." If a child pulls a snake up with the number "2," she must select a prize from bucket number two. Allow each child to pull up a snake from the snake bin.