

BUOYANCY BALLOONS

First Things First

When played with by individuals, Buoyancy Balloons are excellent for developing hand / eye co-ordination and spatial awareness, and group activities. Involving Buoyancy Balloons encourage the development of team spirit, and social and communication skills but most of all FLOATERS ARE FUN.

Buoyancy Balloons may be used in any suitable large activity room or gymnasium and on calm days may be used outside in the playground or on the playing field. Wherever play takes place, it is a good idea for youngsters to emulate their sporting heroes by “warming up” before starting play. Provided common sense prevails Buoyancy Balloons are safe to use but it should be remembered that youngsters will be keyed up and be intent on watching where the Buoyancy Balloon is going rather than where they themselves are going. For individual play please ensure that the playing area is free of obstacles so that a pre-occupied youngster avoids unfortunate collisions. Supervision is essential for games involving 2 or more players and play sites, particularly those indoors, should be chosen with care.

Some care is also needed when guiding children on the technique which they should use for tipping the Buoyancy Balloon into the air using their hands and the Buoyancy Balloon should be pushed gently rather than being “jabbed” with the fingers fully extended.

Inflating Your Buoyancy Balloon

Put the nozzle of the inflator into the zip closer of the Buoyancy Balloon and inflate as necessary. Buoyancy Balloons retain their shape for about half an hour but there will be air leakage as play proceeds making re-inflation necessary.

The games that can be played with Buoyancy Balloons are virtually limitless but here are a few ideas to get you started. Happy Ballooning!

Games for One Person

Throw the Buoyancy Balloon into the air and perform various feats as it slowly descends.

Pirouette

One or more body spins whilst the Buoyancy Balloon is in the air.

Get Up and Go

Once the Buoyancy Balloon is in the air, lie down on the ground, then get up and catch the Buoyancy Balloon before it lands.

Head Over Heals

When the Buoyancy Balloon is in the air, lie down and use your feet to propel the Buoyancy Balloon back into the air.

Juggle

Try to keep two (or more) Buoyancy Balloons in the air at the same time. Can be a bit hectic as you race backwards and forwards to keep them afloat.

Bumps A Daisy

Alternately use various parts of the body (eg. arms, legs, behind, back etc.) to propel the Buoyancy Balloon back into the air.

Equilibrium

Try to balance the Buoyancy Balloon on your hands, head or feet. The idea is to keep contact with the Buoyancy Balloon. Try not to move too much, but move too little and the Buoyancy Balloon may ascend into the air.

Games for Two or More

For 3 or more players it is usual to form the players into a small circle.

To and Fro

Throw, tip, bounce or roll the Buoyancy Balloon to the other player(s). The games can be varied so that the players carry out one of the feats described in the Solo Games whilst they await the Buoyancy Balloon.

Volley

Two teams, one each side of a low net. Play it just like conventional Volleyball but of course the game is much slower and everyone can join in.

Updraught

Instead of using your hand to keep the Buoyancy Balloon in the air, use pieces of cardboard as fans in order to create an updraught and thus give the Buoyancy Balloon momentum.