

# BEACH GAMES ROUND UP

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As we head into summer it hopefully means that there are a lot of beach days in our immediate future. I love to spend my beach time reclining on my eight foot unicorn reading a book whilst occasionally taking a small dip to cool off. My kids are much more active and enjoy all the aspects of dock jumping, swimming, fishing for minos, and building sandcastles. In light of all of that I still like to have a line up of activities for the beach that we can draw from if our family needs a little inspiration for something to do. Here's a round up of some of our favourite creative beach activities!







## BEACH BOWLING

Rather than trying to knock pins down you'll be attempting to sink your ball into a pre-dug hole. Essentially it's more like skee ball but we're still going to call it bowling. Dig a few holes in the sand and use a stick to draw a lane to them. Create a line at the end and have participants bowl from behind the line and try to sink their ball into a hole. You can assign different points to each hole or just make them each worth one point. Balls of any shape or size can be used, just size the hollows accordingly.

## BEACH DISC SLAM

For this game you'll need a frisbee/flying disc and will need to dig two roughly 18 inch diameter holes about 12-15 feet apart. Split up into teams of 2 people each and have 1 team member from each team stand beside a hole. When it is your turn, throw the disc from behind your hole to the opposite hole where your partner is standing. If you can land the disc in the pit without assistance you receive 2 points. Your partner may see it is not going to land in the hole and they can assist by deflecting the disc (the open flat palm of their hand - no grabs) into the hollow. They may only hit the disc one time (but can use both hands). If you score by a deflect your team is awarded 1 point. The first team to 10 points wins. This game is so fun and gets our competitive juices flowing!





## **SAND MINI GOLF**

My kids love this game as there is a whole creative process that precedes the actual game playing. We give each family member an area of beach that is out of the way of foot traffic and challenge them to create a mini golf hole. They will dig a hole and then create obstacles and pathways to surround it. Twigs, rocks, moats of water, etc are all fair game and add to the fun. Once the holes are created give each person a golf ball and have them complete each hole on the course. You can use actual putters to putt or get creative and use sand shovels, your hand or bowl it.



## **MUSICAL FLOATIES**

This game will take you off of the sand and into the water. The premise is very simple - just play musical chairs but in the water and with floaties. Try to keep your floats in a defined area and either swim or wade around them until the music stops. When it does, jump on a floaty! You can decide whether you'll allow people to dump each other off and play that "last man floating" gets to stay in the game.





## **SHADOW TAG**

Beach days are hopefully very sunny days and when the sun is high in the sky shadows abound. Use the regular rules of tag but instead of tagging people you need to touch their shadow. Word to the wise - only play this game with kids old enough to use the honour system who will be honest about tagging the shadow and who will accept when their peer says they are tagged.

## **SAND Pictionary**

Pick an area of wet sand and arm your teams with a stick for drawing. We find it easiest to let an app generate the prompts we need to draw but you can also write ideas on slips of paper and choose them that way. Draw your prompt in the sand and have your team guess correctly before the one minute timer runs out to score. If your team doesn't guess it the other team has the option to steal.

In the same vein as drawing in the sand, hopscotch and tic tac toe are also easy games to play on the beach.







## **MIXED MEDIA ART**

If your troop is getting bored with creating castles you can challenge them to create a mixed media art scape. Define a space if you wish and have them collect found objects to include in their artwork. It could be twigs, grass, shells, rocks, sea glass, clay, seaweed, etc. Then using those objects as well as drawing in and forming sand and clay they can create a work of art. The options are endless but could include a landscape, a summer item (ice cream cone), or favourite animal.

## **WABOBA BALL**

This isn't necessarily a game but it is our favourite beach toy. The Waboba ball is a ball that is specifically designed for water play. It not only floats but bounces on the water. You can throw it like you would skipping a rock or throw it straight down on the water for a bigger bounce. It is THE best ball we've found for playing catch in the water and our family will play with it for hours.

Whenever we facilitate these types of activities on the beach I always find that we have other children wanting to join in. It's a fantastic way to engage a group of kids and spark their creativity to alter other games to work in the sand and water.





## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Monique is a former Junior High teacher turned homeschooler. She lives in a 105 year old house with her insanely tall husband and two children and likes to shiplap all the things. In addition to being a homeschool mom Monique is a maker, photographer, writer and speaker.

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