



## **Family Engagement Guide**

### **Imaginative & Instructional Environments**

**-A Blue Apple Outreach program-**

**Game #1: Snake Pit** - A physical game that encourages communication skills.

**Watch the game:** [Click here!](#)

#### **You Will Need:**

- A cleared area (this can be an open area of your home or yard)
- Various (safe) objects to scatter
- Blindfold (a bandana or scarf would also work)
- Trust and a sense of humor
- Actors' Tools: Body, Voice, Imagination, Courage
- At least 2 players

#### **Game Instructions\***

1. Clear an open area to play in.
2. Players scatter debris across the classroom floor. Backpacks, stuffed animals, books, chairs, etc. These will be the pretend “snakes” in the snake pit.
3. The player who is “it” stands blindfolded on one side of the room/yard.
4. All of the other players stand on the opposite side of the room.
5. The object of the game is for the entire group to guide the blindfolded player across the room without being “bitten” by any snakes (touching a piece of debris).
6. The player(s) who act as guides must work together through listening and eye contact to ensure that their directions are clear and that everyone isn't talking at the same time. They are not allowed to pick one player to give directions. They must all work together.

**\*A Bit of Advice** - You can dial the difficulty of this game up or down

- More debris “snakes” = more difficult
- Less debris “snakes” = less difficult
- More players makes the game more difficult

### **Directional/Positional words:**

- Go/Stop
- Sideways/Diagonal
- Wide/Narrow
- Big/Small
- Together/ Apart
- Forward/Backward
- High/Low

### **School Readiness Skills in action:**

- Follows simple rules and routines
- Does activities that develop large muscles and provides exercise
- Has the ability to focus and listen
- Explores and tries new things
- Shows curiosity and motivation to learn
- Uses 5-6 word sentences
- Is learning to count and is using counting games

### **★ *Need a simpler variation?***

Try “Follow the Leader” or “Simon Says”. You won’t need any props and can get very creative with movements (i.e. Simon Says, “Wiggle your elbows.”)

### **Game #2: Build a Fort!**

Building forts is a great way to work on communication skills while also exploring building (structure, balance, numbers, etc.)

### **You Will Need:**

- A cleared area (this can be an open area of your home or yard)
- Helpful objects for building
  - Blankets or tablecloths
  - Pillows or cushions
  - Cardboard boxes
  - Chairs and/or tables
  - Rope/Clothesline/Bungee cords
  - Binder clips or clothespins
  - Whatever you can find that works!
- Actors’ Tools: Body, Voice, Imagination, Courage
- At least 2 players

## **Game Instructions:**

1. Clear an open area to play in.
2. Gather your building props.
3. Use your assorted objects to build a fort.
  - Use 5-6 word sentences to communicate ideas on how to build. For example: “Let’s stand the big cushions on their sides.”
  - If your child is using only a few words, repeat their idea in a 5-6 word sentence. For example: Child, “Blanket on there.” Parent, “Do you want the blanket on top of the cushions?”
  - Identify objects by their colors/shapes/sizes/numbers, i.e. “Are you using the blue pillow?”
  - Ask questions “How many blankets do we have?”
4. Crawl inside your fort and play!

★ **Bonus** - Imagine together what sort of creatures live inside the fort!

★ **DoubleBonus** - If you have a large cardboard box, take markers or crayons inside and draw on your “cave walls”.

★ **TripleBonus** - Take a flashlight and book inside your fort to read.

## **Directional/Positional words:**

- On top/ On bottom
- Beneath/Above
- Next to
- Behind/In front
- Stack
- Inside/Outside
- Big/Small
- Sideways/Diagonal
- Together/ Apart
- High/Low
- Wide/Narrow

## **School Readiness Skills in action:**

- Follows simple rules and routines
- Does activities that develop large muscles and provides exercise
- Engage in activities that develop small muscles
- Has the ability to focus and listen
- Explores and tries new things
- Shows curiosity and motivation to learn
- Uses 5-6 word sentences
- Is learning to count and is using counting games