

# People Games

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| Background information**People games** are simple, repetitive routines that require at least two **people**, but no toys (think Peekaboo, chase, and tickle **games**). The predictable structure in **people games** means that they're a great way to help children to interact, play with you and learn to do new things |
| Why are people games so great for communication and interaction? * There are lots of opportunities for the child to take a turn as they are **repetitive** and **predictable.**
* The child is more likely to communicate because these games are **motivating** for them.
* The child can learn to copy what you do because you are repeating the same thing each time.

**Some games to try;** tickling, chasing, spinning, peekaboo, up and down games, songs with actions.1. **Give the game a name:** use the same name each time to help the child to understand the word and to understand what’s happening next.
2. **Start the game in the same way:** use a consistent word or gestureit will give the child something to copy and a way of asking for the game again.
3. **Plan turns for you both:** you should pause to see if the child will indicate when they want a turn.
4. **Keep it going in the same way:** the longer you play the more chance you are giving the child to learn the game and to participate. Keep it going with animated voices and facial expressions. Carry out the game in the same way and using the same words and gestures each time.
5. **End the game in the same way:** decide what word and gesture will finish the game, it might be “finished” with the Makaton sign or “all done”.

**The most important thing is to have fun, if you are enjoying, the child is much more likely to. 😊**These games can happen indoors or outdoors, for 2-3 minutes at a time every day- a really good intervention for children with limited interaction. You could use this as a target and record as the child begins to anticipate the game and request more. |
| Useful websites & further reading<https://www.hanen.org/SiteAssets/Helpful-Info/Articles/people-games-handout_1-0-1.aspx><https://salt.ecch.org/media/1379/3-top-tips-for-using-people-games.pdf><http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Articles/R-O-C-K--in-People-Games--For-Children-with-ASD-or.aspx> |