



February 27th is International Polar Bear Day

Save the Polar Bear Game for Early Childhood Learners



Help airlift the polar bears from a melting iceberg to the safety of land.

Supplies

- White tissue paper*
- White paper plate
- Sheet of paper
- Plastic beverage straw, one per person
- Pencil/Marker
- Scissors

* If you don't have tissue paper, you can use clean white facial tissue OR clean white toilet paper.

To Make

1. On tissue paper draw 6-12 polar bears or polar bear head shapes. Size should fit within a 5" x 3" rectangle.
2. Cut out each bear.

NOTE: Folding the tissue paper into layers making cutting easier and quicker.



To Play

Set-Up:

- Place the paper plate on a flat surface; place the sheet of paper at least 12 inches away, either to the left or right.
- Place tissue paper polar bears on the paper plate.

Object of the Game:

- To rescue each polar bear from the iceberg (paper plate) and get it safely to land (sheet of paper).

How to Play:

- Using the straw and a suction breath, airlift each polar bear one at a time from the paper plate and gently place it on the sheet of paper until all polar bears are rescued.
- Time one another to see who can rescue the most bears in the shortest amount of time.

Team Play:

Note: If competing in teams, make two game sets.

Method 1:

- Team members take turns airlifting one bear each; repeating until all bears have been rescued.

Method 2: "Team Relay"

- The first team member airlifts all the bears one at a time to land. The next player returns all the bears to the paper plate 'iceberg'. Once all the bears are on the plate, s/he begins to airlift them one at a time back to the land. Repeat until all team members have played. The winning team is the first to have every player airlift all the bears.

Thank you to SCARCE volunteer Joyce Hemphill for sharing this game with us. Joyce has a doctorate in developmental psychology and 30 years' experience teaching courses in infant-child development, cognition, and learning. She is a board member of the American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPAUS.org) and the Fox Valley (IL) Association for the Education of Young Children. She is also a Play Advocate with the US Play Coalition and speaks and provides workshops on play. Joyce co-authored the book "The Power of Playful Learning", available on Amazon.