



Playing with Balloons

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1. Take turns tapping a balloon between play partners. Label *my turn. Your turn.*
2. Label the actions and locations. E.g., *up, down, over, fast, tap, high, low.*
3. Use small paddles or tennis racquets to hit a balloon back-and-forth.
4. Keep a balloon afloat as long as possible without using hands, such as blowing on it. Label as in #2 above.
5. Rub a balloon on clothing. Then stick it to different body parts. Ask, *Where's the balloon?* Child: *On my belly!*
6. Gather different colored balloons. Match those that are like colored. Label *same* and *different* or *alike* and *not alike* and the colors.
7. Match colored balloons to similar colored objects nearby. Label the colors and objects. *Yes, a green balloon and a green chair.*
8. Gather different size and shapes of balloons. Label: *long, short, big, little.*
9. Play baseball by hitting round balloons with long ones like bat and ball.
10. Set up a basket. Toss balloon into the basket like basketball. Label *in, out. Oops. I missed. That's okay. I'll try again.* Learning that mistakes are part of figuring something out is good to model.
11. Take turns hiding balloons. Give the child clues to find them. E.g., *It's in a place that's cold, has food in it, and a door. Where is it?*
12. Fill balloons with water. Compare and discuss the differences between air-filled and water-filled balloons. Play toss with both types of balloons and talk about differences. Make sure it's a warm day for this one.

***Balloons can be incredibly fun to play with,
but also, scary when they surprise us with a POP.
Be patient.
Solve the problem quickly and return to fun play.***

