



# “Play Time under the Apple Tree”



## Why have Cubbie Playtime?

- 🍏 **Biblical:** Total Time Teaching, Biblical Truth, Memory Seeds
- 🍏 **Physical:** large motor skills, Non-competitive
- 🍏 **Social/Mental:** Taking Turns, Following Rules/Directions
- 🍏 **Fun & Exciting:** Repetition, Modify/Adapting, Age

## Before Club

- 🍏 Be Prepared: Have everything you need
- 🍏 Start with the Game Ideas in the Leader’s Guide, then branch out
- 🍏 Club Size and Space
- 🍏 Safety

## Keeping Playtime Exciting ...and Fun!

- 🍏 Use attention getters “Calling All Cubbie Bears”
- 🍏 Cubbie Buddy Level 3
- 🍏 Encourage Participation & Completion, leaders offer encouragement
- 🍏 Demonstrate the Game, leaders assist
- 🍏 Keep instructions simple, easy to follow
- 🍏 Note games that are favorites. For review weeks play the games from the unit that they liked the best
- 🍏 Always have a backup game ready, either from the Leader’s Guide or addition source
- 🍏 Keep a few games handy that you can do easily without any equipment
- 🍏 Make it successful for everyone
- 🍏 Cool down activity
- 🍏 Consider Theme Night or Seasonal Games

## Working with Preschoolers with special needs [see resource CD for more complete information]

- 🍏 Bean bags, small stuffed animals, soft small balls
- 🍏 Know individual child’s limitations and strengths
- 🍏 Incorporate ways for child to engage in play
- 🍏 Be sure to communicate with the parents

## Additional Resources

- “Let’s Play! Group Games for Preschoolers in the Awana Catalog
- ART Leader Resources
- [www.awanamd.org/cubbies\\_corner](http://www.awanamd.org/cubbies_corner)
- Preschool websites, Vacation Bible School Materials
- [www.commanderbill.net](http://www.commanderbill.net)

## Playtime Supplies

- Bean Bags
- Hula Hoops
- Cubbie Bear Puppets & Cubbie Bear
- Carpet Squares
- Color Circle: Similar to the game circle used in Game Time
- Parachute
- Variety of Balls
- Balloons
- Paper Plates
- Large Tongue Depressors
- Ice Cream Plastic Buckets or Plastic Buckets from Home Depot/Lowes
- Soda Bottles: Decorate with clip art from the Awana website. Put a small amount of sand in bottle to give them a little balance. Seal the tops to keep sand from spilling.
- Plastic Gallon Milk Cartons: Turn them upside down and carefully cut off about ½” off the bottom.
- Bandanas or Scarves
- Pool Noodles (cut in half)
- Large Easter Eggs

## Playtime Alternatives:

Cubbie, Cubbie, Cubbie, BEAR!: Played like “Duck, Duck, Goose!”

Follow Cubbie Bear: Based on “Simon Says” Use the puppet and have Cubbie “talk” to them.

Colors: Use paper, balloons, or different color objects, and have leader hold them in various spots to run to. The leader will call a color and the Cubbies are to run to that color. You can vary how they move to the colors by walking, tip toeing, hopping, etc.

Bean Bag Toss: Simple game of trying to get the bean bags in a large bucket. Do this in the dark with two lights next to the bucket/basket for flashlight night. Or toss through a hula hoop.

Balloon Carry: Balloon, 1 large craft stick attached to a paper plate to make a “paddle”, 2 large containers such as a bucket, basket or box. Use the “paddles” to put the balloons in the containers.

Flower Garden: Scatter children around the room, they can hold silk flowers if you choose and bend down and pretend they are a seed waiting to grow into a flower. Choose one or two children and give them a watering can. As you say the verse of the week the children water the “flowers.” The “flowers” begin to grow slowly until they have bloomed. Repeat so others can water. You can have as many watering cans or flowers so everyone can have a turn. Others could be bees or butterflies that fly around the flowers.

Catch the Bean Bag (or Cubbie Bear): One small bean bag or Cubbie bear and one medium size bucket. If needed divide the group up into smaller teams, you will need a bean bag and bucket if each group. Have one child stand about 1 or 2 feet away from the other child who is holding the bucket or basket. They try to catch the beanbag or bear from the other children.

Sound Relay: You can use a tape/cd player with music or musical instruments or a variety of noisemakers. Have a few leaders available to help play the instruments or tape/cd player. Mark or indicate to areas in which the children will stand and run to. Make sure area is safe and cleared of obstacles. Or you can use the game circle and indicate to only run in “this area and that area.” Leader plays the music or instruments - children run as quickly as possible to get to their spot before the music stops.

Toss and Catch: This is a good game for teaching cooperation, working with a partner or you have few extra minutes. Toss small bean bags, small beanie babies, small rubber balls, beach balls, plastic world globes, small plastic eggs, small stuffed animals. If you have enough objects you can do several partners.

Hit the Pin: 5 Awana Game Pins (or Soda Bottles filled with a bit of sand to steady them), and one rubber playground type ball. This is similar to bowling; clubbers try to knock down the pins. For fun put a picture of each character on soda bottles.

Parachute Toss: Show the children how to gently toss Cubbie in the air and how we gently catch him with a parachute. Some children will get a bit aggressive at this so just encourage them to be gentle and to hold on. As you toss the parachute up and down, explain how to work together as a group to get Cubbie in the air so not to hurt anyone or Cubbie bear. This teaches cooperation in a group situation. You can say the current bear hug verse as you toss Cubbie Bear.

Parachute Run: Have the children hold onto the edges of the parachute. Practice working together to make the parachute go up and down. Explain that one child when his name is called will run underneath to the other side, have an older child help you demonstrate. This game teaches cooperation, as well listening and obeying skills.

Obstacle Course Suggestions: Jump over a bean bag, rope, hula hoop, walk on a path of tape, go around Cubbie bear, game pins, soda bottles, chairs, crawl under a table or a jump rope (held by two teachers), a large “tunnel” made with a large appliance box.

Treasure Type Hunts - Have Cubbies search for different things, star shapes, plastic Easter eggs, small stuffed animals, coins, sheep, small pumpkins. Limit Cubbies to finding only one object and when they do, have them sit down in the places to wait for everyone to find them.

Beach Ball Memory Game: Use this in Welcome Time to reinforce the Cubbie theme, motto, main verses and current Bear Hug verse, you can also use when you have transition time or extra minute to fill. You need a regular beach ball and a permanent marker. Blow up the ball and draw the following items on it, space them as evenly as you can around the ball. Heart Shape (Cubbie Motto), Bible Shape (Current Bear Hug Verse), Music notes (Cubbie Song), the letter “A” (Romans 3:23), the letter “C” (Romans 5:8), and Key Shape (Key verse, 1 John 4:10). Toss the ball gently to a Cubbie, see what symbol their hand is touching and recite what it is. For example if they are touching the heart ask them to tell you the Cubbie Motto. If they are touching two just pick one, if they aren’t touching one, choose one that is close and use that one.

Beach Ball hockey: Cut pool noodles in half and show the Cubbies bat the beach ball around the room. Depending on your location you will need to decide on how hard they can bat the ball.

Color Sorting: Pool Noodles cut in half, several hula hoops, and crumbled up different colors of paper. Toss the paper around the room. Place the hoops in different area and have the children tap the crumbled paper into the hoops. They can sort them by color.