



SOCIAL DISTANCING ELEMENTARY HACKS



HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR SOCIALLY DISTANCED SPACES

Regardless of your church guidelines, it's probably a good idea to practice social distancing within your children's ministry nowadays. So here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to minimize contact while keeping kids engaged!

WEEK 1

ACTIVITY | Epic Obstacle

- When setting up the obstacle course or challenge, think through how to best spread kids out. We suggest having kids go through the course one at a time, using a stop watch to time them. Place painter's tape on the ground and create a "cheering" section for kids who are not participating to spread out and cheer on their teammate.

ACTIVITY | Don't Dodge This Ball

- Set up a circle of chairs for each team, one chair per kid. Instead of handing the ball from feet to hand, challenge the teams to pass the ball around the circle using just their feet.

REFLECTION | Ball It Up

- Rather than tossing the ball and having kids catch it, kick it to them and have them stop it by putting their foot on top. Wherever their big toe lands, instruct the kids to read the question aloud and answer it.

WEEK 2

ACTIVITY | Find the Truth

- Provide each kid a pair of their own [small plastic tongs](#) or have them wear gloves for this activity. Alternatively, prepare individual bins for each kid, with less golf tees than suggested in the lesson guide.

ACTIVITY | True/False Challenge

- Assign each kid a number. Place each of the numbers, spaced apart, on the "true" side of the net as well as the "false" side of the net. Kids must stand on their number, on either side of the net, as they answer the questions.

MEMORY VERSE | Jump It Out

- Instead of pairing up, space kids out and have only a few kids go at a time, then switch, making sure to sanitize the ropes in between. Consider getting one long jump rope for the whole group to go through one at a time. Kids can recite one word at a time as they jump through. For kids who might not be keen on jumping rope, you could "sizzle" the rope along the floor and have them jump over it as they recite the memory verse words. Make sure kids are spaced out appropriately as they await their turn.

WEEK 3

ACTIVITY | All Ears

- Instead of pairing kids up, have three kids come to the front to wear blindfolds and select a few kids to sit an appropriate distance away from them and give directions to the kids wearing blindfolds. If you plan on repeating the activity with new volunteers, use fresh blindfolds.

RESPONSE | Temptation Touchdown

- Create or purchase enough goal posts to provide four stations kids can flick their footballs through. Space each station out in the four corners of the room and make sure kids are practicing social distancing while they're waiting for their turn.

MEMORY VERSE | Volley Verse

- Provide a ball or balloon for each kid to volley on their own as they recite the verse.

WEEK 4

ACTIVITY | Final Countdown

- Use two hula hoops set six feet apart, or painter's tape, to create a ring for each competitor to stand inside during this activity.

ACTIVITY | J-E-S-U-S

- Use crumpled up paper or a soft foam ball for each kid to prevent kids from sharing the same ball.

ACTIVITY | See Like a Referee

- Have kids wear disposable gloves for this activity, which will add a layer of challenge! Or prepare a whistle for each kid, but instead of individual whistles, just wrap each whistle in one long piece until it's obscured. See how fast kids can unwrap it. Let them keep the whistle and make sure they aren't sharing.
- Alternatively, you can simply do this activity as an object lesson and use a whistle to demonstrate the talking points in the lesson guide.

ACTIVITY | Legs of the Race

- To observe social distancing, instead of having kids tied to each other, have them each hold onto the end of a piece of string or rope pulled taut to maintain distance. Revise the number of kids in the group based on the size of your space, and have kids try this activity in shifts. Make sure the string or rope does not get reused.

REFLECTION | Ping Pong Problem

- Place the four buckets in the four corners of the room and have kids go one at a time to place their ping pong balls in each bucket.

ACTIVITY | Game Plan

- Fill a plastic bag, one per kid, with the needed supplies to create their own necklace or bracelet.



SOCIAL DISTANCING PRESCHOOL HACKS



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WEEK 1

ACTIVITY | Travel the Ball

- When setting up the obstacle course or challenge, think through how to best spread kids out. We suggest having kids go through the course one at a time, using a stop watch to time them. Place painter's tape on the ground and create a "cheering" section for kids who are not participating to spread out and cheer on their teammate.

ACTIVITY | House Goals

- Call kids up one at a time to take turns tossing the bean bags. Consider having kids color the weekly coloring page while they wait.

ACTIVITY | Get In the House

- Instead of one large box, use individual boxes, hula hoops, or laundry baskets for kids to use as as their own individual tents.

WEEK 2

ACTIVITY | Four Goals

- Set up holes socially distanced from one another. Make a path so that kids move in a one-way direction.

ACTIVITY | Find the Truth

- Prepare each child their own bin for this activity. You could also prepare the activity as directed in

the lesson but give each child their own ladle to scoop out the golf balls from the shaving cream.

ACTIVITY | Truth or Make Believe?

- Place a piece of painter's tape on the floor for each kid to stand on. Have them all kick their ball at the same time to try and make it in the goal.

WEEK 3

ACTIVITY | Frisbee Golf

- Have kids stand socially distanced, in a circle around the bin. Take turns tossing their frisbees in.

ACTIVITY | Handsfree Hockey

- Have teams send up one person at a time to make one shot with their team's color pom-pom. They can only make one move (like billiards), then a member from the other team can go. Whichever team gets all (or the most) pom-poms to the goal wins.

ACTIVITY | Desert in a Bottle

- Use mini water bottles and give each kid their

own desert in a bottle. Cut out some strips of paper and have them design a label for their bottle if you'd like!

ACTIVITY | Stay on the Line

- Send kids through this activity one at a time, engaging kids with the coloring page or snack while they wait their turn.

ACTIVITY | Knock Down Temptation

- Send kids through this activity one at a time, engaging kids with the coloring page or one of the play time suggestions while they wait their turn.

WEEK 4

ACTIVITY | Balance Beam

- Send kids on the balance beam one at a time. Place painter's tape on the floor to create spots for kids to stand as they wait their turn.

ACTIVITY | J-E-S-U-S

- Use crumpled up paper or soft foam balls for each kid to prevent sharing the same ball.

ACTIVITY | See Like a Referee

- Wrap a whistle in paper for each kid instead of passing around one wrapped item. Instead of "Duck Duck Goose," you can either hide these wrapped whistles around the room for kids to find, or have kids do an easy sports challenge (e.g., make a soccer or basketball goal) to get their package. Kids can blow their whistles to encourage the rest of the group.
- Alternatively, you can simply do this activity as an object lesson and use a whistle to demonstrate the talking points in the lesson guide.

ACTIVITY | Find the Friends

- Use two hula hoops or boxes set six feet apart, or painter's tape, to create a ring for each competitor to stand inside during this activity. The kid who wins continues standing in their space. As kids lose, have them sit down instead of joining on the backs of those who win.

WEEK 4

ACTIVITY | Who's the Leader?

- Use painter's tape to mark spaces on the floor for kids to stand on during this activity.

ACTIVITY | Fishing for Followers

- Film kids separately telling parts of today's Bible story and edit them together to make a video for families to enjoy.

ACTIVITY | Like and Subscribe

- Call kids up one or two at a time to put up the like and subscribe buttons to keep appropriate distancing. If you have a larger group, consider setting up a few more posters that say "Jesus" and send kids to different posters to prevent a bottleneck and the activity taking too long.

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)

- Rotate kids through this activity by having kids spread out, working on the coloring page or other free play as you call kids over one or two at a time to do this memory verse activity.