

## 5 GREAT IMPROV GAMES FOR KIDS with Sunny Chanel

### 5 Great Improv Games for Kids

Introducing your kids to the art of improvisation (improv, for short) is a great practice in communication, thinking on one's feet, and learning the art of public speaking. We've gathered five family-friendly improv games to try out with your own troupe.

The best part? They're all free! – [Sunny Chanel](#)

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#### Here Comes Jane/Jack

You'll need three participants for Here Comes Jane/Jack. Have two children talk about a third person (Jane or Jack) in descriptive terms such as "elderly," "walks with a limp," or "looks part-cat," while the third person is off-stage but in ear shot. After 30 seconds, Jane/Jack must walk onstage and act out how the other two described them.

#### 60-Second Fairy Tale

Encourage your kids to think up as many fairy tales as they can and put them on little slips of paper. One at a time, each person will pick a slip of paper out of a hat and must act out the narrative in less than 60 seconds using just body motions--no talking.

#### Prop Bag

Grab an empty box and throw a slew of random items in it: a basketball, slipper, book, pan, etc. (Your child's toy chest is a great place to look.) Each person must pick an item from the box and perform a skit that incorporates said item. But there's a twist: you can't use the item for its intended purpose. For example, if a person chose the slipper, they can't put it on their foot and walk around. Instead they'd have to use it like a phone (to have a conversation), a tennis racket (to play against an invisible opponent), or as a very large spoon (to host a cooking demonstration). The rest of the participants must guess what the player acts out.



#### One Word Story

This is a fun one for any age! All players should form a circle and set a timer for one minute. The goal of the game is to create a full story, with each player only saying one word at a time. For example, the first player might start with: "the," the second might add "wombat," the third may say "sailed," the

fourth could add “through,” and the fifth might contribute “Spain.” So you have “The wombat sailed through Spain,” and the circle goes around and around until one minute is up.

### **Line From My Pocket**

First, grab two jars. Fill the first jar with slips of papers that have locations on them like “the doctor’s office” or “a fancy restaurant.” Fill the second jar with slips of papers that have situations on them like “I just ate my car” or “I have a dinner date with a sloth.” (The more outrageous, the better.) One player selects from the location jar and announces where the scene will be taking place. Two other players pull from the situation jar. Each player must try to act out their situation in a way that makes sense to the location they were given, while everyone else guesses what they’re trying to act out. Hilarity ensues.

**Note:** This game is better for older kids, since it involves a higher level of complexity and skill.

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*When Sunny Chanel isn’t playing dress up, crafting or going for long walks with her young daughter Annabella, she writes for a variety of sites, including Babble, Fandango, Mom.me, Café Mom’s The Stir, Mommy Nearest and her own site: Wonder and Company. In her spare time, you can find her planning her family’s next trip to the Disneyland Resort.*



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