

Russian Games

Materials: Toothpicks or matchsticks

PRESS YOUR THUMB (Russian & Tatarian game)

Two people play this game. The players link right hands and raise their right thumbs. At the signal the thumb of each rival starts “hunting” for the thumb of the other, trying to press it from above. For a challenge, try linking both right and left hands. Both sets of thumbs “hunt” at the same time.

INTO THE STACK

All players stack their fists on the table. Each person puts his fist on the thumb of the previous player. The player whose fist is the second from above asks: “Whose stack is on my stack?” The person with the top fist answers: “Mine!” The first player says: “The wind will blow it, the fire will burn it!” and blows on the upper fist. The player with the top fist quickly takes it away. Play continues until only one fist is left on the table. Then all of the players point their forefingers at that fist and ask: “Whose stack is the only one in the field?” “Mine!” “Take it away, go home!” All the players quickly try to catch the thumb of the last player.

BRIDGES

Players need to pick up 5 small sticks (matches or toothpicks) one by one, by holding them with the tips of the same-name fingers on both hands. Each small stick forms a "bridge" on the fingers. Whose bridges will stay unbroken longer?

FINGERS GONE!

The leader of the game lifts his hand a little bit and stretches it; palm turned down. Other players put their fingers to the leader's palm, at the same time they move them in a circle, and the leader says: “Who’s in the house? A cat and a mouse, birds and singers, hide your fingers. Daddy, momma, fingers gone!” On the word GONE the players draw back the fingers quickly, otherwise the leader may catch them.