

# Time's Up! Parachute Play

It's time to focus on counting and the concept of telling time.



Children are counting long before they realize that numbers represent something. One-to-one correspondence – attaching a number to each object or incident counted – comes much later and must be modeled.

## Objective

Build confidence with counting and the concept of time while developing cardiovascular endurance through movement and play.

## Equipment

Item #13-500 **Parachute Play Pack**

## Directions

1. Gather children around the parachute and place balls on top of it.
2. Explain that the challenge is to keep the balls on the parachute while making the parachute gently ripple. To start, try going 30 seconds.
3. At your signal, children gently raise and lower the parachute and count the number of times they lift it.
4. After 30 seconds or when the first ball falls, children tell how many times they were able to lift the parachute. Each time try going a little longer before...“time’s up!”

## Options

- Add variety to parachute play by telling children how fast or slow to move the parachute. In addition to straightforward directives (“fast, slow”), consider using descriptive terms. Fast parachute movement could be called “Popcorn,” while slow movement might be called “Ocean Waves.” Challenge children to come up with their own names for the different speeds they move the parachute.
- Experiment with how different objects are affected by parachute movement. Start by placing larger balls on the parachute. Then add smaller balls. Finally, add the beanbags. Discuss difference and similarities in their movement and how they each react to the rippling parachute. Children can also predict and then test how many times the parachute will be lifted and lowered before each type of object reaches the outer edges of the parachute and falls off.

