



# Early Learning Matters

*Because parents are their children's first, best teachers.*

## Simon Says Game

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Simon Says is a fun game that parents and children can play together. The parent can use numbers and directions to help increase their child's understanding of numbers and positions. (For example, Simon says jump 3 times backwards. Simon Says gallop four times forward. Simon Says hop to the side.) Children age three and up enjoy this game. The more players the better! This is a fun game to play either inside or out. In addition to helping your child's understanding of numbers, it is also a good way to improve large and small muscle movement. This game also helps develop listening skills.

### How to Play

One person is Simon.

Simon faces the rest of the group, who stand where they can see Simon well.

Simon says a command for the others to follow, such as "Simon says, clap your hands four times," or "Simon says, Kick your feet once. Or Simon says, touch your toes."

Those who are playing obey only those commands that begin with the words "Simon says." If the command does not begin with these words (for example, "Jump up and down twice"), the players should ignore it. Speed up the game as the children get good at it.

*Noncompetitive version: Enjoy a good laugh with anyone who obeys a wrong command, but do not send them out of the game. Keep on playing until interest wanes.*

*Competitive version: Any player who obeys a command not preceded by "Simon says" is out. The last player left wins.*

