



## Activities:

**No Parents Needed!**

**1 Ring around the candlestick.** Play an old-fashioned game of ring toss using a candlestick and paper plates with the centers cut out. Place the candlestick 6 feet away from the child (or farther for more of a challenge).

**2 Who's who?** Fill a large shopping bag with your children's stuffed animals. Challenge each player to close her eyes, pull a toy out of the bag and try to guess which one it is by touch.

**3 Egg-cellent!** Using an empty egg carton, number the sections 1 through 12 with a felt-tip pen, and place a small ball or coin inside. Instruct your child to close the carton, shake it, then open it again. Whichever section the object lands in determines how many points he scores. Have him see how many points he can accumulate in 10 minutes. With multiple egg cartons, kids can make a friendly competition of it.

**4 The name game.** Starting with A and ending with Z, challenge your child to list the name of a person she knows for every letter of the alphabet. To make it harder, set limits—encourage kids to list only cartoon characters, athletes, etc.

**5 On a roll.** Cover two dice with masking tape, then write a different letter on each side. Players take turns rolling the dice and recording the letters that land face side up. Once all players have accumulated 12 letters, their goal is to turn their letters into as many words as possible. Set a time limit. The player with the most words wins.

**ROBYN FREEDMAN SPIZMAN**



Meet Robyn Freedman Spizman, *WD's* new kids' activities columnist and author of more than 60 books. Her latest, *The Perfect Present* (Crown), will debut in bookstores this fall.

## Discipline Secrets of Teachers

Classroom strategies that help keep the peace at home, too.

**Make it a family affair.** "Have an ongoing discussion about the ways in which family members can help each other. Good behavior is based on respect, not discipline," says Alexandra Miletta, a fifth-grade teacher at Seaview Elementary School in Edmonds, Washington.

**Cheer kids on.** "The basic premise of all discipline is positive, authentic praise. Tell kids what they did right, not only what they did wrong," says Mary Hall-Moran, a second-grade teacher at Munsey Park Elementary School in Manhasset, New York.

**Say it and mean it.** "Don't make idle threats. That confuses children, because then 'no' doesn't mean 'no,' it means 'maybe,'" says Bonnie Keiles, a special-education teacher at New Hope-Solebury Elementary School in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

**Pick your battles.** "Focus on one or two behaviors, rather than trying to modify everything about a child at once," says Laura Reich, director of Gan Shalom Nursery School in Plandome, New York.

**Be predictable.** Set up a consistent routine at home. "A child should know where he will sit and do his homework, when he will eat meals, and so on," says Keiles.

**Read between the lines.** "Children misbehave to express a need—they may be tired, hungry, angry or bored. If a child is getting antsy, let him do something else," says Keiles.

**RANDI ROSE**

## Pillow Pal

**W**ant to create an imaginary pet that doesn't have to be fed or walked

but is still fun to snuggle with? First, use a color laser copier to reproduce your child's favorite drawing or collage. (This kitty was made from cut construction paper.) Next, follow the directions that come with photo-transfer paper (we got great results with Dragon Threads' image-transfer paper) to put the artwork on a pillowcase. Kids can finish off with glued-on buttons and coils of yarn.



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**KIDSPEAK:** When my 4-year-old niece was told the family was going to Seattle for a vacation, she asked,

**"Who's Addle?"**

TWYLA ANGELOS, MANHATTAN, KS