

## Children's Literature Reviews

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### Great games for young children : over 100 games to develop self-confidence, problem-solving skills, and cooperation

*Rae Pica ; illustrations, Kathy Ferrell ; photographs, Mary Duru.*

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Beltsville, Md. : Gryphon House, c2006.

136 p. : ill. : 28 cm.

#### Annotations:

Includes bibliographical references (p. 129-130) and index.

#### Reviews:

##### **Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

A game ought to be fun, not humiliating, not embarrassing and not hurtful, Rae Pica maintains. Toward that end, she presents over a hundred games for early childhood professionals (and parents, it is to be hoped) to encourage youngsters to work cooperatively, not competitively. Games that teach rejection, competition, failure, and humiliation, as well as those that teach exclusion and embarrassment are absent from the collection or totally reworked. For example, Pica's version of "Musical Chairs" challenges kids to cooperate and figure out how they can all fit on one of the remaining chairs. In short, this is a well-illustrated collection of easy and easy-going activities. The description of each game includes "Why It's a Great Game" and identifies developmental goals (e.g., cognitive, affective, physical). Pica mentions her Hall of Shame of Games: Dodgeball, Duck Duck Goose, Messy Backyard, Kickball, Musical Chairs, Relay Races, Steal the Bacon, Line Soccer, Red Rover, Simon Says, Spud, and Tag. She reworks several of these to be inclusive and affirming. Games are organized into five sections: Circle Games, Concept Games, Musical Games, Cooperative Games, and Outdoor Games. Most can be played in 5 to 15 minutes, and some even less. Some use a parachute or hula hoop; most just require children and a leader. There is a brief section on playing games with special needs children, for which resources are included. Includes an index and a glossary. 2006, Gryphon House, \$14.95. Ages adult parent/professional.

#### Subjects:

[Games.](#)

[Self-esteem in children.](#)

[Problem solving in children.](#)

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[Pica, Rae. 1953-](#)

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