

Cowboys and Indians Games

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Circle Up Game:

"This is a great activity for a **western theme party**. Choose 2 players – an Indian and a cowboy. The rest of the players form a circle holding hands up. The Indian moves in and out of the circle trying not to get caught by the cowboy. When the Indian is inside, he can say "close!" and everyone puts their arms down. The Indian is safe then, but when the children forming the circle have counted up to five, they raise their arms again. The cowboy can also say "close!" if it happens that he and the Indian are both inside the circle. He then can catch the Indian more easily, but when kids have counted up to five they can raise their arms again and leave the Indian out! " http://www.pinatas.com/Western_Party_Games_s/151.htm

Here Come the Indians:

GRADE LEVEL: Grade k-3

HIGHLIGHTS: "Safety in large group running, dodging, tagging and acting on verbal cues"

INSTRUCTIONS: "Divide the class into two teams, one team being the cowboys and the other team being the Indians. To begin teams are lined up at opposite ends of the playing area. Start by having the cowboys facing away from the Indians. At this point the Indians sneak up on the cowboys. When the teacher thinks they are close enough he shouts "Here come the Indians", the cowboys then turn around and chase the Indians back to their reservation. Any Indians tagged become cowboys. This time the Indians turn around, and the cowboys sneak up to the Indians. This game may be played with a time limit or until all players are on one team."

<http://www.mrgym.com/Tag/CowboysInd.htm>

Reflect and Respond:

1. Have you played games like this? Briefly describe your experience(s).
2. Where do stereotypes of Indians play a prominent role in these games? List specific words and directions that are stereotypical. If necessary, explain the reference.
3. Is there a way to adapt these games to remove stereotypes and make them valuable or useful on the playground or at parties? What can you come up with?