

jacks and ball

INSTRUCTIONS

AGES: 5+

PLAYERS: 1+

OBJECT: To pick up jacks in the time it takes to bounce a ball.

EQUIPMENT: 12 jacks & 1 bouncing ball

1 PLAYER GAME: Jacks is a series of challenges. When you perfect one challenge, move on to the next. Start by spreading the jacks out on the floor or a table. Toss the ball in the air with your throwing hand and pick up a single jack with the same hand. Then catch the ball with your throwing hand after it bounces once. Transfer the jack to your other hand, throw the ball up again, and pick up another jack in the time it takes the ball to bounce once. Continue until you have picked up all the jacks, one at a time. (This is the first challenge called Ones, or Onesies.)

After you have completed ones, try picking up the jacks by twos, then by threes, and so on, until you can scoop up all the jacks in the time it takes to bounce once. If at any point you fail to pick up the correct number of jacks or you miss the ball, start from the beginning of the challenge you were on when you flubbed. (If you were on Twosies, spread all the jacks back out on the playing surface and begin again to pick up two at a time.)

2 PLAYERS OR MORE: Play the jacks the same as above. One player spreads the jacks out and begins the first challenge (Onesies). The player can keep moving through the challenges until he makes a mistake. Once he makes a mistake it is the second player's turn; when that player makes a mistake, it is the third person's turn, and so on. When a player gets his turn back, he must start over on the challenge he was on when he flubbed. Continue going back and forth between players until someone is able to scoop up all the jacks in the time it takes for the ball to bounce once.

WINNING: The winner is the first person to accomplish all the challenges, Onesies through Twelvies (1 jack through twelve jacks).



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