

Predator/Prey Hide and Seek Game

Adapted from the Thicket Game from Project Wild K-12 Curriculum Activity Guide, Revised edition (2002)

Outside space: Pick an area with places to hide like bushes, trees, playground equipment.

Indoor space: set up chairs, desks, tables with sheets or blankets draped over them for hiding spots.

Directions:

One student will be “It”, the predator. The predator cannot move from its spot. The other students will be the prey. The predator will turn around, close its eyes, and slowly count to 20, while the prey goes to hide. The prey must be able to see some part of the predator from their hiding spot.

When finished counting, the predator turns around and looks for prey from its spot. It should identify the prey out loud, and that prey will come join the predator quietly until the next round. When the predator can no longer pick out any prey, start a new round. This time, all prey who were identified are now predators, so all turn around for the count of 20. All surviving prey need to hide 5-10 steps closer to predators. Play rounds until only a few prey are left, then have them stand up to reveal their hiding spots. It is amazing to see how close they can be undetected. Discuss what made it successful for them to stay hidden so well. Some of these methods may be physical, and others behavioral adaptations.