

# Using a Beach Ball to Develop Literacy and Movement<sup>1</sup>

A resource for tutors/teachers to support the Home or School Based Summer Programme

## Learning objectives:

This activity builds skills in 'Learning to Learn' specifically developing 'Communication skills' and 'Building on Successes' as well as 'Literacy' skill development.

Key skills include:

- **Oral language** –vocabulary development
- **Reading** – Sight words (if using with younger children)
- **PE-** Exploring movement and yoga poses

## Activity 1: Beach Ball Ice Breaker Activity

### Step 1:

- Write a variety of get-to-know-you questions on the ball.
- \*The students can come up with the questions or it can be done in advance.

### Step 2: Play the game

- Toss the ball to someone in the circle. The catcher reads whichever question their fingers/thumbs are touching (or nearest to) and answers it for the group.

## Activity 2: DIY Beach Ball Sight Words Game (for younger children)

### Step 1:

- Cover the beach ball with sight words.

\*These could be words the children learned over the course of the year.

### Step 2: Play the game

- Throw the beach ball to someone in the circle. The catcher reads the word that their right thumb lands on (or nearest to).

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\*You could expand this by asking them to use it in a sentence, think of a rhyming word, ask them what is the opposite to the word e.g. fast and slow or ask them to close their eyes and spell the word.

### **Activity 3: DIY Beach Ball Movement Activities**

#### **Step 1:**

- Cover the ball in a variety of physical exercises or yoga poses.

\*The students could be involved in choosing these exercises or this could be done in advance

#### **Step 2:**

- Throw the ball to someone in the circle. The catcher reads the exercise/ pose that their right thumb lands on (or lands nearest to) and the whole group does it together.

## ***Resources***

### **Examples of get-to-know you questions**

**Red – primary**

**Green- Second Level**

**Blue- either**

1. Who is your hero?
2. Have you any pets?
3. If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
4. What is your biggest fear?
5. Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?
6. What would you change about yourself if you could?
7. What motivates you to work hard?
8. What is your proudest accomplishment?
9. What is your favourite book to read?
10. What makes you laugh the most?
11. What was the last movie you went to? What did you think?
12. What did you want to be when you were small?
13. What do you want to be when you grow up?
14. If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?
15. What is your favourite game or sport to watch and play?
16. What is your favourite food?

- 17.If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- 18.Who is your favourite author?
- 19.Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?
- 20.What is your favourite hobby?
- 21.What is your favourite colour?
- 22.What is your favourite subject? Why?
23. What is the best gift you have been given?
- 24.If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?
- 25.What would you do if you won the lottery?
26. What's your favourite zoo animal?