

Great Big Golf

Primary Objectives

5. Demonstrates balancing skills
6. Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills

Why It's Important

Once your child becomes comfortable with the mechanics of handling a large ball, he can then move on to playing purposefully with the ball. By adding direction to his play, you encourage him to intentionally direct his movements.

Materials

Large inflated balls; plastic toy hoops; paper numbered 1–5

What You Do

1. This game can be played indoors or outdoors in a large, open area. Place the toy hoops on the ground several feet apart. The hoops should be randomly scattered, not in a tight group or line. Put a numbered piece of paper in each hoop to indicate the order in which they should be played.
2. Invite your child to play a golf game with you. Give him a large ball and show him the hoops that represent golf holes. Explain that you will take turns trying to get the ball into each hoop in numbered order.
3. Demonstrate how your child can roll, throw, kick, or push the ball with each turn to move it closer to the hole. When he gets the ball into the first hoop, direct him to the next.
4. If he uses one method exclusively to move the ball, encourage him to try a new way of moving it. *I see that you are rolling the ball toward the hole. Can you try to kick it now?*
5. Offer encouragement as he completes each hole.
6. When the game is over, give your child the opportunity to have free play with the ball or play the game again.