

This is one of my favorite games. It requires no equipment. It can be played anywhere, and it can be played with any number of participants.

Give kids the following instructions: Stand up and find a partner. Face your partner with your hands behind your back. On the count of three, bring out both hands in front of your face so that your partner can see your hands. Hold up as many fingers on each hand as you choose. The winner is the first person to guess the total number of fingers being held up by all four hands. (A closed fist means zero fingers.) This is a contest between you and your partner, not between you and anyone else in the room.

Go for the best two out of three rounds. Tell kids, though, that there's a secret to the game. The secret is to count the number of fingers you're going to hold up before you bring your hands out from behind your back. Then you just have to add the number of fingers that your partner is holding up to the total you're holding up. This is a simple game that's

Gaming Tips

Why play games in your youth group? Here are the top five reasons:

- 1. Games are universal.** I've seen kids play games in every country that I've ever visited.
- 2. Games are come-and-see, entry-level activities.** They pull pre-Christian kids into your youth group and provide opportunities for presenting a spiritual message.
- 3. Games stretch your kids.** They learn to share and to assert themselves. They learn to develop tolerance, persistence, and patience. Games improve problem-solving skills and help kids deal with life's stresses.
- 4. Games build community, acceptance, and a sense of belonging.** Games draw kids and adults closer together.
- 5. Games provide trouble-free fun.** Kids are hungry for good, wholesome activities in a positive environment. Life is tough enough. Kids need to have fun, to play, and to laugh together.