**Flexible Guiding: Games for Online Meetings**

Evelyn Smith from Renfrewshire runs Brownies, Guides and Rangers. We asked her to share her top games for online meetings. If you’re looking for new ideas, pick and mix from the list below. They’ve all been tried and tested with girls and are suitable for all sections unless specified.

**5-minute games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Equipment** |
| **Mystery sound** | Leader makes a sound and girls write down what they think it is e.g. Clinking glasses, spoon, bubble wrap, phone ringtone. Choose noises that will create some interesting answers. | Pen and paper |
| **What is this?** | Using a large and colourful image (e.g. from a storybook), the leader holds it up close to the camera and the girls type in what they think it is as the picture moves away from the camera to reveal itself. This would also work with a toy, Christmas card, birthday card, photo, cereal box. | Storybook or equivalent |
| **Silent action song** | All together try to keep up and sing whilst on mute. Try completing an action song e.g. head, shoulders, knees and toes. Leader could start the first round by singing it through. If that works try the version where you miss a bit out each time e.g. point but don’t say head and sing right through, next round misses out head and shoulders but point to each part. | None |
| **Name Chain** | Start with a girl’s name, the next person gives another girl’s name that starts with the last letter of the previous name e.g. Jane, Erin, Nora. Go around the group. You could do this with food, towns, animals | None |
| **Draw on your head** | Girls put their notebook (or paper on a book) on their head and draw keeping the paper on their head. Draw something like a flower, car, dog, butterfly etc. Then share onscreen for a laugh to see what they have drawn. | Book, pen and paper |
| **Nose and hands**  (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides only) | Each person holds their left ear with the right hand, and their nose with the left hand. When the group leader says ‘change’ everyone must change to right ear, left hand and nose with right hand. The lader keeps saying ‘change’, now see who can keep going the longest without making a mistake. Everyone gets better with practice. | None |

**10-minute games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Equipment** |
| **Conveyor belt** | Leader gathers a selection of small items to show going past on the camera announcing each one like Generation Game conveyor belt. Announce each item as it passes and at the end girls must write a list of the items. For younger girls use practical items, scissors, glasses etc but for more advanced version add e.g., car (toy), holiday to Spain (postcard), wine glass, afternoon tea (biscuit and teabag) cuddly toy, toaster (tealight), facial (face cream), hairdo (hairbrush). etc | Selection of small items, pen and paper |
| **Mystery bag** | Leader has an item in a bag (make up bag or drawstring bag) and gives one clue e.g. it is red. Each girl in turn asks a question to work out what is in the bag. Leader can give a further clue to keep interest going. | Make-up or drawstring bag |
| **The Loch Ness monster story** | This game is a fun activity with a message. Participants need paper and pen/pencil and should draw Nessie from your description. The Leader reads out the description with a short pause (five seconds) after each item, just enough for girls to almost finish that part of the drawing to keep the pace up.    Leader says “I saw the Loch Ness monster and she had a long neck and, on her head, she had two eyes… She had pointy ears and she had two horns too, just like Shrek… Nessie had four flippers and a large body… She was swimming in Loch Ness, splashing her long tail… I could see all the spikes along her back from her head to her tail… Nessie had a big smile and had a fish in her mouth… She was swimming along with her two baby Nessies, who looked just like her… One was a boy because he had a baseball cap on. There were some boats in the loch around her.    We are not looking for perfection – when you’re ready encourage participants to all hold up their pictures to the camera so they can see each other’s drawing. They will all be different. The leader could then say something like, “Look at all those drawings! They all look beautiful but they’re all different. We all heard the same words but everyone came up with something different.” | Pen and paper |
| **Scavenger hunt** | The Leader has a list of items (approx. eight) and the girls search for them at home. First with each item gets a point. Remember to make some non-specific e.g. something blue or cuddly or something to make us laugh. | Selection of household items |
| **Yes/No game** | The leader has a conversation with the player who must not answer yes or no. Prepare questions in advance as it is tougher than you think to be the questioner. | None |
| **Digital Pictionary** | Player creates drawings using paint and screen share | None |
| **Simon says** | Girls must copy the person who is ‘IT’ and who says Simon says do this and demonstrates the move (e.g. touch your head) getting a little faster with each move. When Simon says ‘do that’ everyone who follows that move is out | None |
| **One at a time** | Try saying your Promise with each girl saying one word at a time - it’s hard not to laugh! Each girl must remember who is before them to know when to speak. How many words you can achieve before everyone starts laughing? Volunteers may have to help a few girls remember to say their word. You can record it and play it back then delete it. Maybe start easy with something girls don’t have to think about e.g. Happy birthday. If your girls say their Promise regularly then it will be easy for them | None |
| **Higher/lower** | Leader has a pack of cards and will turn one card over at a time. Girls have to predict whether the next card will be higher or lower. | Pack of cards |
| **A B C ‘snap’** | Choose about eight letters e.g. A to H. Everyone makes their own list of e.g. a food or something found in a toy box. Each gives their answer for each letter and if two of the same appear then shout ‘snap’. | Pen and paper |
| **ABC list** | A letter is chosen and each girl must list an item for each category e.g. a girl’s name, boys name, country, etc. | Pen and paper |
| **Perfect a group wave** | Harder than it sounds! Make like they do at big sports games and large-scale events and try to get everyone to pass a wish from their right hard to their left all at once. | None |
| **The invisibility game** | The volunteer mimes the use of 10 objects e.g. scissors, hat, gloves, piano, pc keyboard, guitar, fork, phone, comb, spoon, lipstick, tie, keys etc. Everyone has two minutes to recall and write down the objects | Pen and paper |
| **Story chain**  (Rainbows, Brownies & Guides only) | Start a story and nominate the next person to continue it using the names in zoom or leader can name the next person to give all a chance. | None |
| **Do you remember me?**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Each person tells the group a few things about themselves for two minutes e.g. name, pets, hobbies, favourite food, likes, dislikes. After four or five girls have spoken, the leader says one person’s name and ask girls what they can remember about that person. | None |
| **Deserted Island**  (Brownies & Guides only) | In three minutes, girls write down three things (not people) they would choose to have if they were stranded on a desert island. Girls then explain the reasons for their three things to everyone else (hint: who remembers there are no phone charge points or Tesco). | Pen and paper |
| **I went to the shop**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Each person must say an item which starts with their initials e.g. Anna Brown says I went to the shop and bought Apples and Bananas. Erin Cobb could buy eggs and cheese.  Advanced level. This can also be run like minister’s cat where each person has to name all those before her then add her ‘name’. | None |
| **Alpha message**  (Guides & Rangers only) | Each person in turn calls out any letter and everyone notes it until you have five or six letters. Then everyone races to create a message with a word starting with each of the letters in the order they were called out. The messages must make sense. | None |

**15-minute games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Equipment** |
| **Charades** | One person acts out a song, book, film or famous person and the others try to guess what the mimed clue is. | None |
| **Two truths and a lie** | Each person comes up with two truths and one lie. One at a time, each person makes their three statements and the others have to guess which is the lie. Volunteers can share theirs too. | None |
| **Conveyor belt advanced** | Same as above but for the advanced version the items are more obscure e.g. a car (toy), holiday to Spain (postcard), wine glass, afternoon tea (biscuit & teabag) cuddly toy, toaster (tealight), facial (face cream), hairdo (hairbrush) etc. | None |
| **Walk through paper activity** | Lead girls step by step in how to cut an A4 sheet. Fold the paper by putting the two long sides together and fold to make a long narrow paper... Cut a narrow strip across from the folded edge and stop 3cm from the edge. The next cut is from the open side across to the folded side stopping short again. Keep going, alternating which side you cut from as you go down. Your last cut should be from the folded end. Open it up. It is a big paper zig zag with a hole to climb through. YouTube has videos if you need to see it before leading the girls. | A4 paper, scissors |
| **Try easy Origami** | Lead your girls in a simple origami creation. Try dog face, butterfly or tulips or be more ambitious. The internet has many step by step guides | Paper, origami materials |
| **Handmade Picture quiz** | Ask the girls to draw something you would see at one of the following scenarios. at the beach, zoo, supermarket, park, garden, Scottish summer’s day. The leader picks one each time you run the game.  No need for felt pens to colour in as a pencil or pen will do. Girls have five minutes. Then, without saying what it is, each person in turn must show their artwork to their camera and everyone (or just the leaders) has to guess what they have drawn. Should be fun and no criticism please. | Pen and paper |
| **1, 2, 3 elephant** | The leader says ‘1, 2, 3 elephant’ and all girls have to make an elephant (nose to arm and arm extended like a trunk) last one gets one strike. The person with least strikes at the end is winner.  When girls achieve elephant, add some other variations e.g.1, 2, 3 rabbit (each hand pointing up whilst on top of head and palms facing forward: bunny ears). 1, 2, 3 giraffe (both arms straight up together above your head, hands make the giraffe head). 1, 2, 3, palm tree (both arms up in the air swaying in the breeze). 1, 2, 3 Christmas tree (both hands in the air and hands clasped). 1, 2, 3 Aeroplane (arms are wings). 1, 2, 3, seagull (flapping arms as wings). Advanced level is where girls are expert at the actions and you can say them faster and faster. | None |
| **20 questions** | The player writes on their paper an animal or famous person or a fruit or food or a job. They turn the paper face down and each other person asks one question to try and guess the item. Adult counts the questions until they get the answer or get to 20, whichever is first. Take it in turns to be the player | Pen and paper |
| **What’s the question?**  (Guides & Rangers only) | Leaders give the answer. Girls must say what they think the question is by using the hand up emoji. The Leader controls which person answers first each time to make it fair for all | None |

**20-minute games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Equipment** |
| **Spot the difference** | Ask girls and leaders to have one or two small/subtle things to next meeting to change their appearance e.g. baubles, hairband, scarf. Divide girls into small groups with a leader. Group one steps aside from the camera and change one thing each. The others have to guess what has changed then Group B changes etc. | Accessories (e.g. hair, clothing) |
| **Happy Memory** | Ask girls to each bring next week three items in a wee bag. Each item must have a happy memory that they can tell everybody a one-minute story of the item. Leader asks each girl in turn to tell their first item’s story. If there are many girls, do the second item’s story at the next meeting. | Small items and bag |
| **One-minute chatter challenge** | Randomly generate a topic and ask a girl to talk about it for a minute. You are out if you can’t last the minute or if you repeat yourself. Someone else can finish the talk for the rest of the minute. | None |
| **Make a fortune teller** | Lead girls to make a folding fortune teller like we made when we were kids. Get a paper square, fold it one way and then the other, then lay it flat and fold in the corners, turn it over, fold again. push your fingers in the outside pockets to make the shape. Now put your predictions and colours on it and have fun. Parents can help with this, they might remember when they made them. YouTube has clips if you get stuck. | Paper, colouring pens |
| **1, 2, 3, the story** | Using the characters and actions above, the leader tells a story with an elephant, giraffe, palm tree, etc. all featuring many times and girls must make the correct action. It should be a laugh as the story gets faster, animals meet up and many actions are required at once. | None |
| **Make a book from one sheet of paper also called a zine**  (Brownies, Guides & Rangers) | Lead girls step by step. Girls fold the A4 paper by putting the two long sides together and squash the fold flat. Open your paper and fold it the other way, then fold the paper again same way round to make it quarter size.  Cut a strip along the folded edge from the middle out to the first fold. Then unfold your paper and pull gently along the cut part to make your book shape. Check YouTube/Pinterest for practice beforehand. Girls can write their Promise over the pages to keep as a memento. | A4 paper, scissors, pen |
| **Make a woven paper heart**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Lead your girls to make a woven heart using paper. You can find instructions for this activity on YouTube. Can they make something else too? There are many ideas out there! | Paper, scissors |

**30-minute games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Equipment** |
| **Handmade Bingo**  (All sections) | Girls make a grid with three vertical lines (four columns) and three rows. They enter their own choice of numbers between 1-30 and show the leader their grid before you start to ensure they have enough numbers. The leader makes her own grid of numbers, from 1-30 and calls out the numbers in true bingo caller style e.g. two little ducks is 22 etc. First person to get a line horizontally wins, first to get two lines is second and the first person to get a full house (all the numbers) is the big winner. | Paper, pen, ruler |
| **Create a story**  (All sections) | Using the chat, take turns adding a sentence to the story. One by one. Or girls can say the story whilst a leader types it in the chat room. | None |
| **Three in the case**  (Rainbows, Brownies & Guides only) | Each girl has three mystery items in their own pencil case. Leader asks one girl to choose one item to describe in two clues without saying what it is. Anyone who thinks they know the answer puts their ‘hand’ emoji up and the leader asks a few girls (different each time) what they think it is. 10 points goes to the person who guesses correctly. A volunteer then chooses the next person to describe an item (this game can rollover to another week). | Pencil case, three small items |
| **Talent show**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Ask the girls to think and prepare what they could do next week for a talent show (Sing, dance, tell a joke, do a magic trick etc.). Performers take turns in the talent show. Some girls e.g. the TikTok fans will be keen. Those not performing can be the audience or introduce a performer. | None |
| **Paper panto puppets show**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Choose a story and add extra parts then give each girl a character to draw (Queen, prince, dog horse, princess, slipper, sisters, cook, maid, butler etc.). Each girl makes their paper puppet by drawing their character on an envelope/used birthday card. Then their puppet acts out the story as the leader reads the story slowly enough for all to take part. | Pen and envelope/used birthday card |
| **Price is right**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Pick items girls will recognise. Leader shows one onscreen, girls guess and write down the price. The girl closest, but not over, gets 10 points. e.g. tin of beans, schoolbag, socks, car, ice lolly, cola, loaf, happy meal | Pen and paper |

**40-minute games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Equipment** |
| **Pet parade**  (All sections) | Each person brings along their pet (fluffy toy or real). They must introduce their pet, its name, breed, what care it needs, what it eats and what tricks it can do. The volunteer should create a category so each pet wins e.g. the fluffiest, the cutest, the sleepiest, etc. | Pet or soft toy |
| **Mug cake bake**  (Guides & Rangers only) | This activity needs some prep ahead of time. Email/text a recipe for girls to have ingredients ready next week. Check they all have a microwave ahead of time. At the meeting everyone mixes ingredients, cooks their cakes. An adult should be nearby, the mug will be hot. | Recipe, pre-prepared, microwave, mug, cooking ingredients |