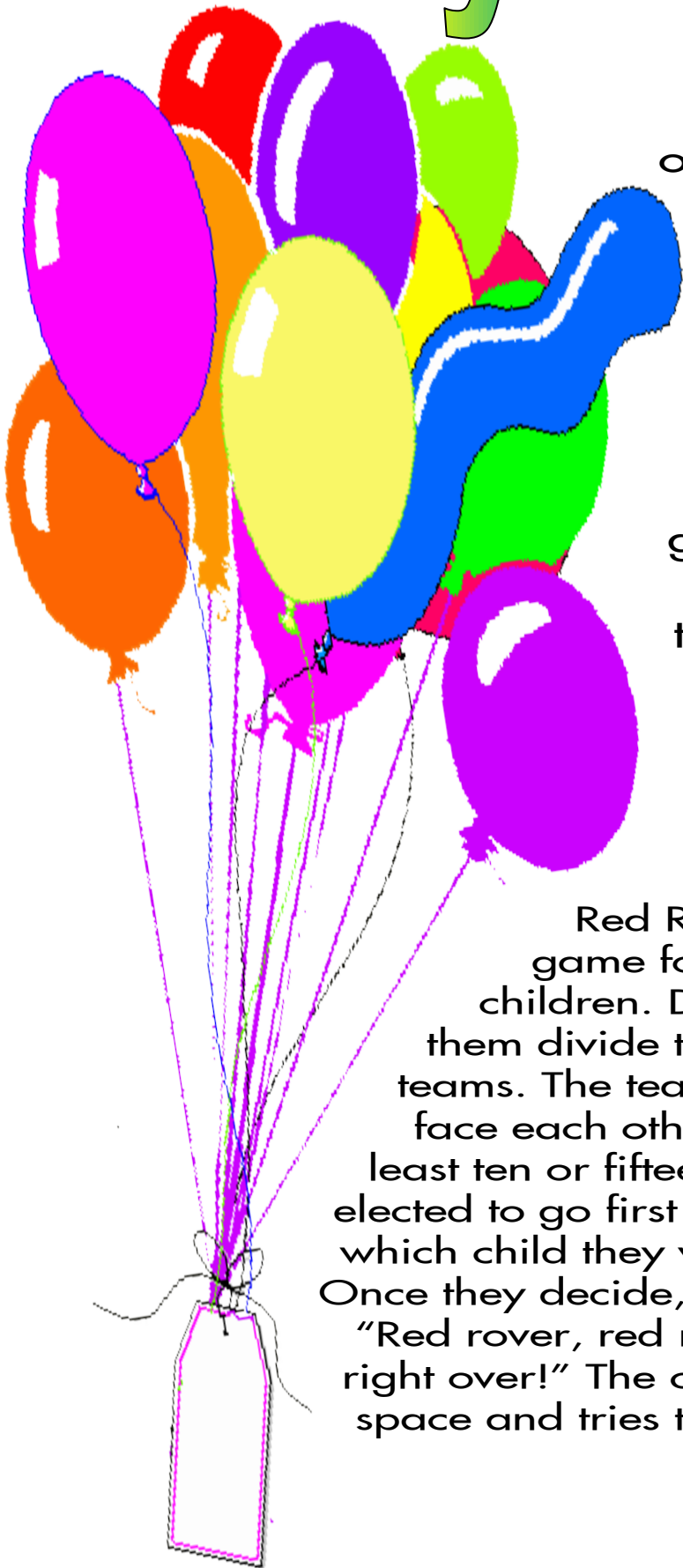


Party Games!!!!



Parties are a great opportunity to encourage teamwork and cooperation. There are literally hundreds of games that require working together and many of these lend themselves to large groups. Here are just a few ideas to promote teamwork and have fun at the same time!!!

Red Rover

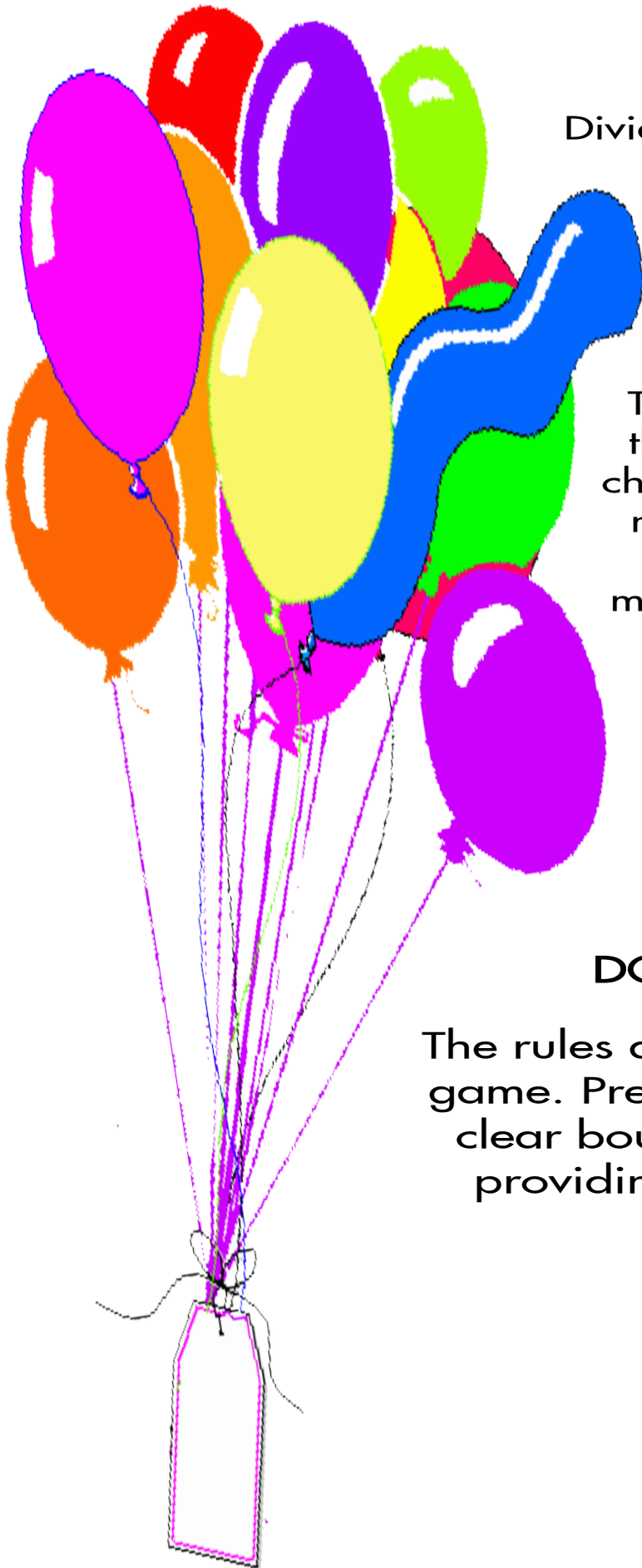
Red Rover is a good teamwork game for groups of ten or more children. Divide the children – or let them divide themselves – into two equal teams. The teams link hands in a line and face each other across a distance of at least ten or fifteen feet. Whichever team is elected to go first decides among themselves which child they want from the other team. Once they decide, the team chants in unison, “Red rover, red rover, send [child’s name] right over!” The chosen child runs across the space and tries to break through the team’s



linked hands. If they manage to keep their hands locked, and s/he fails to break through, the teams gets to keep her/him; however, if s/he breaks through, s/he returns to her own team, taking with her/him a child from the opposing team. The winning team is the team that accumulates all the players. As a cautionary note, with very competitive or very hyper children, this game can become very rough, and children can get hurt; at the first sign of trouble, before things get out of hand, it's best to redirect the children to a different game.

Freeze Tag

Tag is always an excellent vent for excess energy. In Freeze Tag, one child is "it," and the rest try to keep from getting tagged. When tagged, a child must "freeze" in his tracks until another child unfreezes him (by tagging him or crawling between his legs). When a child is tagged for the third time, he replaces the original "it." There are many variations of tag, and older children will be happy to help decide what rules they will play by.



Relay Races

Divide the children into small groups and give them a challenge – for instance, balancing an egg on a spoon and passing it from one person to another, jump roping, or sprinting. Team members must reach the finish line and pass the challenge off to another team member; the winner is the first team to have all its members run the race. Keep the kids involved by encouraging them to help you think of interesting challenges.

DON'T FORGET...

The rules are as important as the game. Prevent chaos by setting clear boundaries as well as providing entertainment.