**Hockey Encounter**

Hockey Encounter is like noodle hockey, but with a twist that preteens love.

**Supplies:** 4 orange cones, inflatable ball, masking tape and one half of a swimming noodle per preteen.

**Set-Up:** Set up two orange cones 7 feet apart at each end of the playing area. They are the goals, similar to hockey or soccer. Make a circle in the middle of the playing area using masking tape. Cut swimming noodles in half and hand one to each preteen. Players use the noodle as a hockey stick.

**How to play:** Designate one player on each team to be the goalie and several players to stay back near the goalie for extra protection. One player on each team starts off in the circle battling for the ball. Players work together to get the ball in the goal. The team with the most points at the end wins.

***But here’s the twist:*** At random intervals throughout the game, the leader yells ENCOUNTER, which signals a noodle battle between the two players on the opposite team who are closest to the ball. If it is too difficult to tell who is closest or there are lots of preteens by the ball, randomly select two for the battle. For the battle, preteens attempt to hit below the waist the opposing player with the noodle. The player who wins the battle gets a free shot from 15 feet away and no goalie. After the battle, continue playing as normal. If you are tight on time, put a time limit of one or two minutes per battle. If no one wins the battle, then simply continue playing.

**Variations:**

* Play with four teams and four goals. The playing area should be square. Set up a goal at one of the four ends of the playing area
* If you have a large group and four goals is not an option, then simply have half of the group sit on the side not playing while the other half plays. At random intervals, the leader yells **SWITCH** and the team playing sits out while the other team plays.