

# Jumping and Hopping Ages 3-5

- You'll need: Rope, bean bags, balls, hoops, cones
- You can play: outside, in the gym, blacktop, field

## Warm Up

## **Animal Junction**

Children line up at one end of playing area. 1 leader shows picture of animal to children, and they must move like that animal to the other leader (at the other end). Leader #2 must "guess" what kind of animal the children were pretending to be



Add in more challenging movements as you go such as gallop, jump etc.

Start with simple animals that are quite obvious like crab/t-rex etc

### Game 2

## **Elevator Game**

The leader guides children through different "floors" by bending down into a squat at various levels (level 1 = bum to floor; level 10 = standing straight up on tip toes). This is verbal queuing for jumping later on. TIP: Tell a story if they do not understand the levels. Ex. We are having a party on the top floor and we keep forgetting things. We need to go back down... then all the way back up with the cake, etc.



Hold the squat position for a few seconds to build leg strength



Use both visual and auditory cues each time you call a command.

## Game 3

## **Cheetahs to Frogs**

Kids run when they are cheetahs and jump like frogs when they are frogs. When the leader shouts 'abracadabra!' they change into the other animal.



Try a new round with different jumping animals, like t-rex to bunnies



Give verbal and auditory cues for the frog jumps each round

#### Game 4

## **Jumping over Snakes**

Tie skipping ropes to the fence or a post low to the ground and children must jump over them (first hold still then wiggle); try to jump over 10 "snakes". The faster you wiggle the snakes the more difficult the jump will be.



Try raising the height of the 'snakes' for an added challenge



Keep the snake still on the ground and practice jumping with two feet over the snake