

THEATRE

The Runaway Bunny

Little Bunny Hide and Seek:

The little bunny wants to run away and hide, but every time he suggests hiding under a new disguise, his mother comes up with the perfect way to seek him. In this elaborate game that is less about hiding and seeking, and more about activating imagination, partners will take turns “hiding” in disguise and acting out perfect ways of “seeking” the hider!

Materials Needed: This activity works best in a large space with plenty of hiding places and lots of options for dressing up in different disguises. It may be helpful to begin by determining boundaries (for example, within a specific room or set of rooms, using only specific hats or old Halloween costumes as disguises), otherwise your whole living space may become part of the story.

Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away. So he said to his mother, “I am running away.” “If you run away,” said his mother, “I will run after you. For you are my little bunny.”

Directions:

Step 1: Determine Roles

- Decide who, for this first round, will be the “little bunny” (the hider) and who will be the “mother” (the seeker).
- If you are the “little bunny,” choose (and announce) your first disguise by completing the phrase, “I will become _____” If you are having trouble coming up with ideas, start with one of these from *The Runaway Bunny*:
 - A fish in a trout stream
 - A rock on the mountain
 - A crocus in a hidden garden
 - A bird
 - A little sailboat
 - A trapeze artist
- If you are the “mother,” choose (and announce) how you will seek the “little bunny” under their new disguise by completing the phrase, “If you become a _____, I will become a _____ and find you.” Challenge yourself to choose a way of seeking appropriate to each disguise. You wouldn’t become a firefighter to seek a snowflake, but you might become a firefighter to seek a flame!

Step 2: Assume Disguises

- Using whatever you have on hand (which might be just your voice, body, and imagination), take on your new identities as hiders and seekers.
- Incorporate whatever costumes and props as you have on hand. Don’t be afraid to repurpose objects (a hairbrush can become a microphone for a Rockstar, a pencil can become a wizard’s magic wand, a pillow can become a cloud for an airplane to navigate around, etc.).
- Figure out how your character moves under your new disguise (or if they move at all). Do they move fast or slow? Do they make big or small movements? Do they make any sounds?
- Once you are both well and truly “disguised,” it is time for the next step!

THEATRE

The Runaway Bunny

Step 3: Act!

- As the “mother,” give the “little bunny” a certain amount of time to “hide” in their disguise, maybe counting to 10 or 20. This is less about finding a classic hiding place and more about fully acting out the role. For example, a fish in a trout stream probably wouldn’t go hide in a closet, but rather might go act out swimming quickly through the water.
- When the time is up, the “mother” should go seek! Again, this is less about classic seeking, and more about acting! If you are playing a fisherman seeking a fish, act out baiting the hook, lowering the bait into the water, and catching the fish. Maybe you catch some rubber boots first! Maybe you catch the fish on your hook, but she swims away! Enjoy the journey of seeking as much or more than the destination.

Closing:

Repeat, switching roles as often as desired, until the activity reaches its natural conclusion. Share with one another your favorite part of this activity.

Bonus:

Did you have a favorite pair of “hider” and “seeker” disguises? Draw a picture of what happened, taking inspiration from Clement Hurd’s illustrations in *The Runaway Bunny*.