

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

11. CAKES AND ADDERS GAME

INTRODUCTION

A pun on words, we know! But it's fun to tackle some of the negative folklore around snakes. In the traditional Snakes and Ladders game, snakes send you back down the gameboard, which is not helpful. We've reinvented it – on a big scale! The aim of our game is to get to the end of the board without landing on a cardboard cake, which slows you down by making you miss a turn. In this version, landing on an adder tail sends you closer to your goal, as you go 'up the adder', unlike the traditional version. This activity can be great if you have a stall or activity on hard standing tarmac or concrete as it will help bring children in for a play and chat about snakes and why they aren't really the bad guys.

MATERIALS:

- Old cardboard boxes (available from most shops for free)
- Scissors
- Marker pens
- Coloured paints and brushes
- Large pavement chalk set
- Selection of plush snake soft toys – or ropes / skipping ropes to represent snakes
- Giant foam dice (See 'Resources')
- Square template (approx. 0.5m x 0.5m) (optional, but good if you want straight lines!)

DO IT!

1

Start by making some cardboard cupcakes. Make them nice and big! Draw the outlines and details with marker and infill with colourful paints.



2

At your activity venue, use the square template (we used a large framed picture!) to draw a 5 x 5 square grid on the ground.



DO IT!

3

Add numbers to the grid and put snakes and cakes onto it for the first game.

4

Players take turns to throw the giant dice – you can help them by fetching it whilst they stand in the squares. Remember if they land on a cake they have to miss a turn, and landing on an adder sends them up the board.



5

Celebrate the winner!! When they reach the end, take the opportunity to discuss why our version is different. Can they think of snakes that are good guys in films or in folklore? They will struggle! It's a great discussion starter.

