

Make a Tabletop Football Game

An Activity Linked to Unicef's Playground Challenge

Soccer Aid for Unicef is the world's biggest charity football event. In 2018, stars such as Robbie Williams, Usain Bolt and Sir Mo Farah will play alongside footballing legends to raise money to help children in danger around the world.

Be inspired by Soccer Aid and create your own legendary football match with this tabletop football activity. Why not add it to your fundraising efforts and hold your own tabletop Soccer Aid Challenge?

You will need:

- A shoebox
- Green paper
- A pen for the field markings
- Scissors
- 4 wooden dowel rods
- 10 wooden pegs
- Paint and felt-tip pens in two colours
- Ruler
- Table tennis ball



What to do:

1. Take a shoebox and remove the lid.
2. Place the box onto a sheet of green paper, draw around the base and cut out the rectangle.
3. Draw the markings of a football field on the green paper.
4. Once complete, stick the green paper into the shoebox to create your playing field.
5. Around the outside or inside edges, you could add cut out images from newspapers or magazines to create a football crowd scene.
6. On the short sides of the shoebox, measure and draw the goals. Make sure they are high enough for the ball to fit through and the goal is at the very bottom edge, so the ball can escape. (A rectangle about 5cm x 10cm should work, but this will also depend on the size of your box.)

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- Cut around each rectangle to leave an opening for the goals.
- On one long side of the box, draw a horizontal line high enough for the ball to pass underneath and for the pegs to move freely when attached to the wooden dowel rods.
- On this line, measure four evenly-spaced points. At each point, carefully make a hole large enough for the dowel rods to fit through.
- Repeat steps 8 and 9 on the opposite side of the shoebox, making sure the four points line up with the opposite side.
- Paint the tips of each dowel rod, alternating between team colours.
- Push the dowel rods through the holes, alternating the team colours. You could wrap coloured tape or string around the ends of these.
- Colour the wooden pegs in team colours and clip them to the coloured dowelling in team formations.
- Find a friend, drop a table tennis ball onto the centre circle and start your game!

