

New Year's Eve Activities

Sands of Time Fill a large bucket with sand and plastic letters that spell out a phrase, such as “Auld Lang Syne” or “Happy New Year.” Players must search through the bucket to find letters to spell out the phrase. The person who completes the task the quickest is the winner.



Sort the Year Write the current year on a piece of paper 10 times and cut out the individual numbers, so you have ten copies of each digit. Put all of the numbers in one bowl and mix them up. Put the bowl with the numbers in the middle of a table. Put 4 smaller bowls at the 4 corners of the table. Assign each bowl a number for each of the year's 4 digits. Players must sort the numbers in the large bowl into the smaller bowl within the time limit, selecting only one number at a time.

Reminisce Sometimes it might be difficult to remember things that have happened in the past year. Use these [free printable cards](#) to help your residents and staff, and even family members, reminisce about the past year.



Resolution Poster Hang a large piece of black butcher paper on an accessible wall. Provide guests with gold and silver sharpies to write their New Year's resolutions on the butcher paper. Add glitter and embellishments to enhance the poster. Leave the decoration up throughout January.

“Things” Game Select a player to be the reader. The reader selects a topic about ‘things,’ such as ‘things at a New Year’s party’ or ‘things you wear to a party’ or ‘things you buy for a child.’

Give each player a slip of paper. Have them write an answer to that topic and give the paper to the reader without letting anybody see what was written. The reader then says the answers out loud. The players go around the circle trying to guess which person wrote which answer. If a player guessed correctly, the person whose answer was guessed correctly is ‘out’ for that round of play. The player who guessed correctly keeps guessing until he makes an incorrect guess. Then the play goes to the next person. The last person left wins the round.



On the new round, the person sitting next to the left of the reader is the new reader and selects a different topic.



Memory Jar Have all guests write down a favorite memory from the past year, or better yet, have residents add memories to the jar throughout the year. Before the stroke of midnight, read the memories aloud and reminisce together. You can even make a guessing game out of the reading.

Month Guessing Go through old magazines from the past year, or use the internet to search for old news articles. Find the events that took place in the past year. Make a list of these events and ask your guests to guess in which month the event occurred.



Fun Photos Take a picture of each participant with a digital camera. Have them make a funny face and be sure to tell them there is a prize for the best face. After all the pictures have been taken, download them to your computer and ask everyone to gather around the monitor. The winner will be judged on the greatest laughter.



Charades of the Past Year Play charades with events from the past year. Think of major events, national events, and even local events around your community.

Can't Say This game is patterned after the game "Taboo." Write down the name of a person who made the headlines in the past year on each index card. On the back of the card (or somewhere on the front of the card) write down 4



words that the person who chooses the card cannot use to describe the name on the card to the other guests. Split into 2 teams. The team has 1 minute to figure out what the name is without the "chooser" of the word using any of the 4 words that are not allowed. If the "chooser's" team cannot guess the name, then the other team gets one chance to guess the correct name. The team who guesses the most names correctly is the winner. For example: The name is "Donald Trump." The four words that cannot be used to describe him are President, Republican, Melania, and Billionaire.

Flashback This is a holiday version of concentration. It's played with homemade cards decorated with pictures of favorite moments and milestones from the previous year. Next, cut out images from old magazines, newspapers or greeting cards to represent the chosen events. If you have actual pictures, even better. Remember, you'll need to find 2 identical or at least similar images per event. Glue the images onto colored index cards and the deck is ready for a match.

Guessing the Resolutions Have each of your guests write down 5 resolutions, each on its own slip of paper. Pull 1 slip of paper out of a basket at a time and read it aloud. Guests try to guess who wrote the resolution.

"On Time" Charades Play charades with titles, songs, and books that feature the word "time" in honor of the New Year's Eve countdown. Search the word "time" at online book and movie retailers to get some ideas or try these suggestions:

Lost in Time (movie)

"Time in a Bottle" (song)

"A Stitch in Time Saves Nine" (rhyme)

"Time is On My Side" (song)

A Wrinkle in Time (book)

