



BEST IN SHOW

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Choose materials and objects according to their properties
- Make a risk assessment
- Take part in outdoor activity
- Compare your performances and demonstrate improvement to achieve your personal best

🕒 2 HOURS

RESPONSIBLE ADULT SUPERVISION
REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆☆

YOUR MISSION

The agility course is a popular event at dog shows all over the world. Well-trained dogs weave in and out of poles, run through tunnels, leap over obstacles and even navigate wobbly see-saws. It helps to keep them fit, healthy and well stimulated, but above all it's great fun! We know what you're thinking, what would it be like to be an expert agility dog? Pepe wants you to find out.

Your mission is to design a SAFE agility course for humans, using objects from around the house to make your obstacles (with permission, of course!). Make it fun but pleeeeeease avoid danger at all costs! Which member of your household is the most agile? Who is Best in Show?

GET STARTED

PHASE 1:

Decide where your agility course will be. Outdoors or indoors? Pick somewhere with as much room as possible to avoid BANG CRASH BONK... ouch! Yeah, that.

PHASE 2:

Decide who is competing (just kids, or adults *and* kids?). Think about what kind of obstacles will suit humans as opposed to dogs.

PHASE 3:

Look at the everyday objects you own. How could you use them in different ways? Make sure each obstacle presents a different challenge. Will competitors have to jump over, crawl or limbo under, walk across, or squeeze through each obstacle? Mix big, loud challenges with small, fiddly ones. Little things can be fun too. Have you ever picked up a button using cucumbers as chopsticks? DIDN'T THINK SO.

YOU WILL NEED

- A variety of household objects
- Pencil
- Paper
- A stopwatch
- A responsible adult

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PHASE 4 :

Decide in which order your obstacles should be tackled safely, and set out your course.

Consider forces

Will obstacles that you need to stand on bear the weight of all the different competitors? Think about the lessons you learned from the Pillow Fort article in the **Real World Maths** issue (Feb 2019), about forces, gravity and tension.

PHASE 5 :

Risk assessment

DO NOT SKIP THIS BIT

There will be a risk for anyone taking part in your agility course, but making a risk assessment will help you to minimise the chance of an accident and reduce the severity of any injuries. Start by taking your pencil and paper and making a list of what could go wrong – a pole might fall over or a step might collapse, for example. Someone might get a cucumber stuck up their nose. Next, for each problem, think about what the outcome would be for the competitor – a small bump might be acceptable, but a broken limb would be terrible! Finally, think about how likely each thing is to happen. If a twisted ankle is the likely outcome but the obstacle is redesigned and reconstructed to make sure it doesn't happen, then you have reduced the risk.

Some tips:

- Don't stand on anything that wouldn't usually take the weight of a person.
- Keep hard and heavy objects near to the ground so they cannot fall onto anyone's head.
- Attach ropes or strings to something that will not fall on people. Make sure ropes and strings can't get caught around body parts and trap or choke you!

Ask a responsible adult to check your risk assessment and your finished course before starting the competition!

PHASE 6 :

Running your agility course

- All the competitors should give themselves a suitably weird dog show name.
- Each competitor should take their turn separately and you will need to time them. You could use a stopwatch on your phone or watch (or... on an actual stopwatch!)
- How will you take account of mistakes? Usually a penalty time will be added to the competitor's overall time. Decide how many seconds to add if a mistake is made or an obstacle missed.

Keep a record of everyone's times, including penalties.

PHASE 7 :

Present some DIY prizes to the Best in Show! You might have different categories for adults and children of different ages in your family.

Remember to take some fun photos of the competition and send the best ones to us here at AQUILA HQ, we'll share as many as we can.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- * How will you protect yourselves, and for that matter, your obstacles, from damage?
- * How will the course test people in your house of different sizes and abilities?
- * Could you have made it any more fun?