Use your marker to draw three small boxes across the lane of ice. Play the 'Three Little Pigs' and have skaters march to each house after you (The Big Bad Wolf) ‘blow’ it down. As you say, 'Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!', have them chant back “Not by the hair of my chinny, chin, chin!” as they move to the next house!

Have each student hold a pool noodle in the shape of the letter ‘U.’ Let them pick one toy that will be placed on the ice in front of them and have them skate/march, glide, dip and push the toy and proceed this sequence until they score a goal (two cones six feet apart) at the other end of the ice.

Have one student hold a cone in front of him or her and skate backward (wiggles, swizzles, backward skating) around the lane of ice while the other students are each given a ring(s) and try to place their ring(s) on the cone while executing a skill (i.e. one-foot glides, swizzles, gliding dips)

Skate backwards as you blow bubbles from the bottle and have the skaters try to catch them or pretend the bubbles are rain drops and have the skaters march to get out of the rain.

Use a ‘Simon Mask’ to let each student have a turn being Simon, directing the others to execute a given skill. Using the mask tends to give them more self-confidence to speak loudly and direct the class.

Have each student take a turn holding the stop sign and skate backward. The other students are to follow, executing a predetermined skill when the sign is ‘go’ and when it is ‘stop’.

Basic Skills Games can be used for all ages and levels! Be creative and find a few great props to use during class that are durable, safe and easy to carry with you such as washable markers, cones, a bottle of bubbles, some pool noodles (cut in half) or rubber/foam toys!

A complete set of game cards, as well as all referenced props, can be purchased in one complete ‘Basic Skills Instructor Kit’ from Elite Skating at www.elitesk8ing.com!