

LONDON PLAY STREET CAROUSEL



Street games collected
during lockdown 2021





We are grateful to The National Lottery Community Fund for supporting this specially adapted lockdown project.

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The Play Street Carousel

The Play Street Carousel project used the power of play to strengthen bonds between neighbours, even as the coronavirus pandemic kept them apart.

In the depths of winter early 2021, England entered a third national coronavirus lockdown. Gathering and playing on the street came to a halt in most London boroughs. As infection spread, people stayed home and avoided social contact. London Play's Lottery-funded play street project had to be reinvented.

So the Play Street Carousel project was born! A suitcase full of art materials and recording equipment was sent to each of eight streets in the London boroughs of Croydon, Haringey, Kingston and Redbridge. Residents were invited to use the materials to record their favourite street games; and return these to the suitcase before passing it on to a neighbour (using Covid-safe protocols).

When the suitcases had completed their journey on the street 'carousel' they were returned, stuffed full with a rich variety of games from across generations and cultures. They included film and photos; drawings and paintings; and written descriptions. This booklet, and the accompanying film, feature some of the best contributions.

As well as serving as a record of this very unique period in our history we hope that this booklet and the games included will provide inspiration for future play streets, and many happy hours of play!

Participating streets

CROYDON
Grassmere Road
Tudor Road

HARINGEY
Hampden Road
Mount Pleasant Road

KINGSTON
Piper Road
Sussex Road

REDBRIDGE
Aintree Crescent
Dudley Road



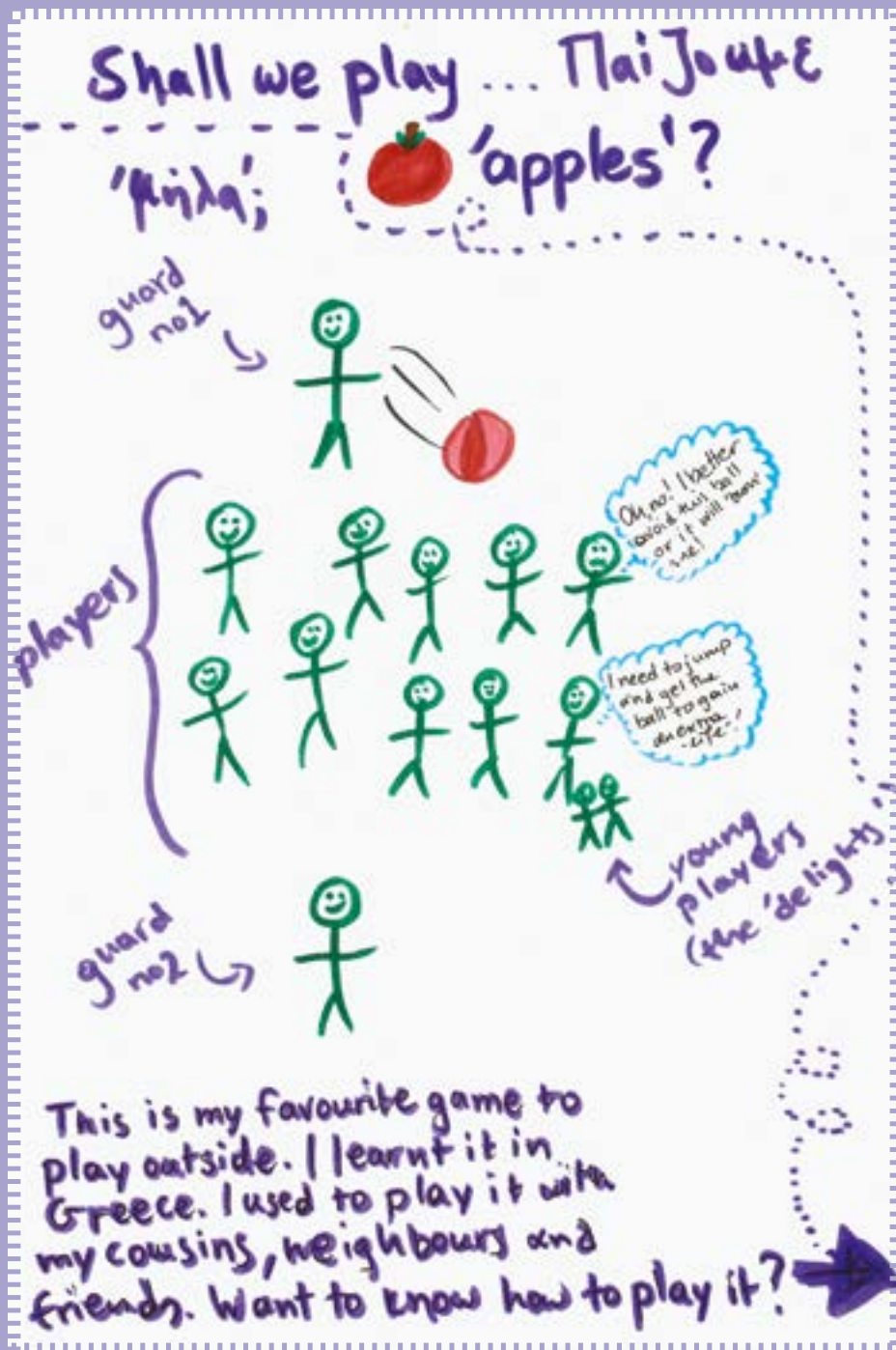
What was in the suitcase?

AUDIO VISUAL
EQUIPMENT
Camcorder
Camera

COVID SAFETY
Hand sanitiser
Sanitising wipes
Gloves
Masks
Handling protocols



ART MATERIALS
Colour pencils
Paints and brushes
Crayons
Glue
Paper
Crafting materials
Scrap book



How to play 'Apples'

You will need:

A group of players (the more the better) and a ball (softish, so it doesn't hurt if it hits you or parked cars).

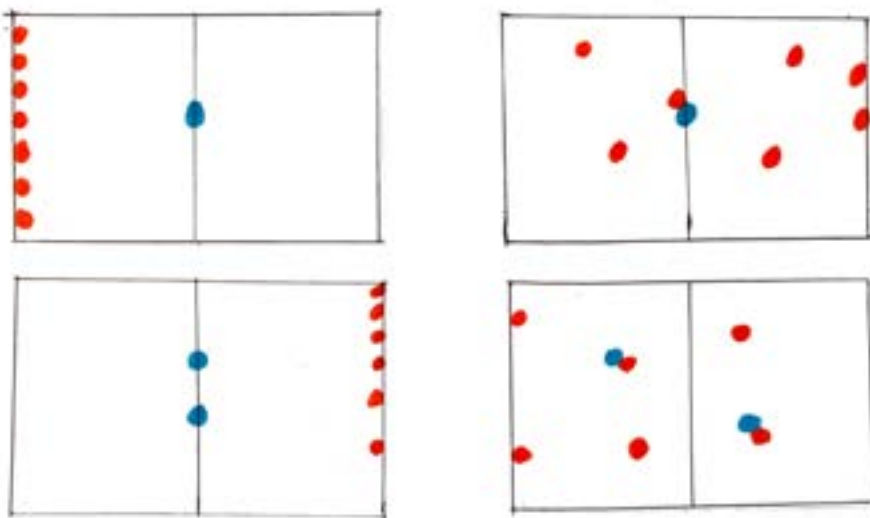
Instructions:

1. Two people are the 'guards' of the ball. They stand on either end of the player group. Their purpose is to 'burn' as many players as possible by throwing the ball at them.
2. Players get 'burnt' if the ball hits them anywhere on their body. Once 'burnt', a player must leave the 'pit' area and watch the game from the side.
3. If a player catches the ball with two hands, they earn an 'apple', or extra life. This means that if the ball hits you, you can use your apple to remain in the game. Players can accumulate apples to have more than one extra life. They can also choose to donate a life to a player who was previously burnt, to bring them back into the game.
4. Guards should give chances for players to catch 'apples', meaning they should sometimes throw the ball up high to allow the possibility of catching it.
5. When there is only one player left in the 'pit', the guards have 10 seconds or three more shots to 'burn' the remaining player. The burnt players count down from the sideline.
6. The guards win if they succeed in burning the final player. But if the final player escapes a burning, they are the winner!

BRITISH BULLDOG



● RUNNERS ● BULLDOG(S)



How to play 'Bulldog'

You will need:

Four or more players (more is better).

A marked out play area including a 'safe zone' on each side (use coats or bags – or chalk if you are on a street – to mark the boundary).

Instructions:

1. One or two players (depending on overall numbers and space) are the 'bulldogs', who stand in the middle of the play area. The other players are 'runners' and line up on one side.
2. The 'runners' have to try to reach a safe zone on the other side of the area. As they run, the bulldogs try to 'tag' them by touching the runner with their hand. Each time they 'tag' a runner they must say 'British Bulldog!', or the tag is not counted.
3. Once a runner is tagged, they become a bulldog and join in tagging the other runners to make even more bulldogs.
4. If a runner goes outside the marked boundary in trying to evade the bulldogs, they automatically become a bulldog. It is acceptable for the bulldogs to try and shepherd a runner outside the boundary, but pushing is not allowed.
5. Once all the untagged runners are in the safe zone, they try to run to the safe zone at the other end, again evading the bulldogs.
6. The winner is the last runner not to be caught!

GRANDMA'S FOOTSTEPS



Hampden Road, Haringey

1. One person plays 'Grandma' and stands with their back to everyone else.
2. Everyone else has to stand in a line, a few metres behind Grandma.
3. Everyone in the line then has to try to creep up on Grandma and tap her on the shoulder.
4. However... at any moment, Grandma can turn around suddenly. Everyone has to freeze like a statue when she turns around. If Grandma sees anyone moving, they have to go back to the starting line.
5. The first person who creeps up to Grandma and taps her on the shoulder, wins!

London Play says....

For an added challenge, ask everyone to freeze in a certain pose, e.g. like a rabbit or a tree every time 'Grandma' spins around to face them.

WHAT TIME IS IT MR WOLF?



1. One person is chosen to be 'Mr Wolf' - the rest line up at the other side of the street (the bunnies).

2. Mr Wolf stands with their back to the others. The others ask together: 'What time is it, Mr Wolf?'

3. Mr Wolf answers with a time (eg, 'It's 7 o'clock!') and the players take that number (7) steps towards the wolf.

4. At any time, the wolf can answer with 'DINNER TIME!' and turn around and chase the bunnies to tag as many as possible before they can reach the safety of 'home'.

5. Anyone tagged lines up and becomes a wolf. The game continues until there is only one person left who is not a wolf. That person is the winner!



Hampden Road, Haringey

How to play 'Chinese jump rope'

You will need:

Between 3 and 8 players.

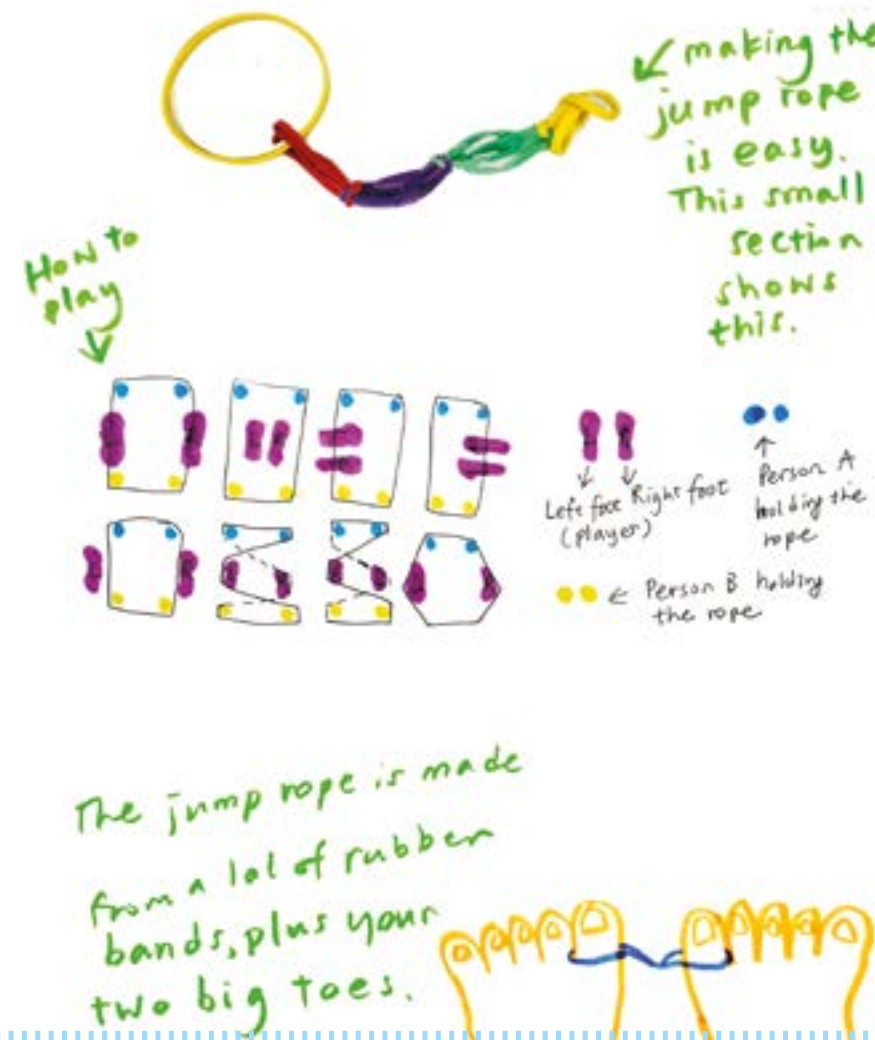
Rubber bands to make the 'jump rope' (or a long piece of elastic).

Instructions:

1. Make the 'rope' by looping the rubber bands together (use your toes to help!) and tying it so that it is a large circle.
2. Two people face each other, standing inside the rope circle. Lifting the elastic up to their ankles, they walk backwards away from one another until the elastic is stretched between them at ankle height.
3. Other players take turns to jump an agreed sequence, onto, into, outside and twisting the rope/elastic.
4. The pattern shown opposite goes: ONTO (both sides) – INSIDE – ONTO (one side with both feet) – ONTO (the other side with both feet) – OUTSIDE (straddle) – CRISS (feet taking elastic with them) – CROSS (feet taking elastic the other way) – STREEETCH (both feet inside but wide apart).
5. Players are 'out' when they misstep and another player has a turn.
6. Move the elastic higher for an added challenge – or lower to make it easier for younger children. Take turns making up your own sequences.

Hello!

I am introducing a simple and fun game I used to play in Taiwan after school with my neighbours on the street. This was during the 90s and I believe that it is still loved by children there. It is called Chinese jump rope. The jump rope is made from a lot of rubber bands, plus your two big toes!



The height of the jump rope
can be adjusted to
match different levels
of difficulty.



Conkers



Dudley Road, Redbridge

The 'Firework' Game.



Play in pairs:
Take a long, colourful ribbon.
One player stands still, while
the other twirls the ribbon
around them.



Can the ribbon twirler keep the ribbon going around the other player for 10 seconds?

*It spins like a beautiful
colourful firework!*

Grassmere Road, Croydon

LET'S PLAY Hopscotch



This is a lovely game I would play with my friends, at school or out on the streets near home.

How to play 'Hopscotch'

You will need:

Two or more players.

Chalk or tape to mark the hopscotch.

A small stone or twig (or any small object you can use to throw).

Instructions

1. Draw your hopscotch diagram on the ground. Chalk is best for pavements and outdoors; or you can use masking tape.

2. Throw a small stone (or other object) into the first square (1). If it lands inside the square (not on the line, or outside it), you can play.

3. Hop on one foot into the first empty square, then every subsequent empty square. You must always jump over (miss) the square with the marker in it. At the pairs, jump with both feet, one in each square. At no 10, hop and turn and head back to the start the same way. Pause to pick up the stone and again, jump over that square.

4. Repeat with the next empty square (2, 3 and so on) until you are out.

5. You are out if the stone lands on a line or outside the square you are aiming for; or if you put a foot down or stand on the lines when you are hopping. When it is your turn again you can start from the number you got out on previously.

6. The first player to complete all 10 squares (there and back) is the winner.

London Play says....

Hopscotch is an ancient game and variations of it are played all over the world. In Turkey it is known as Seksek. In Spain hopscotch is called rayuela; in India it is Kit Kit or Stapu.

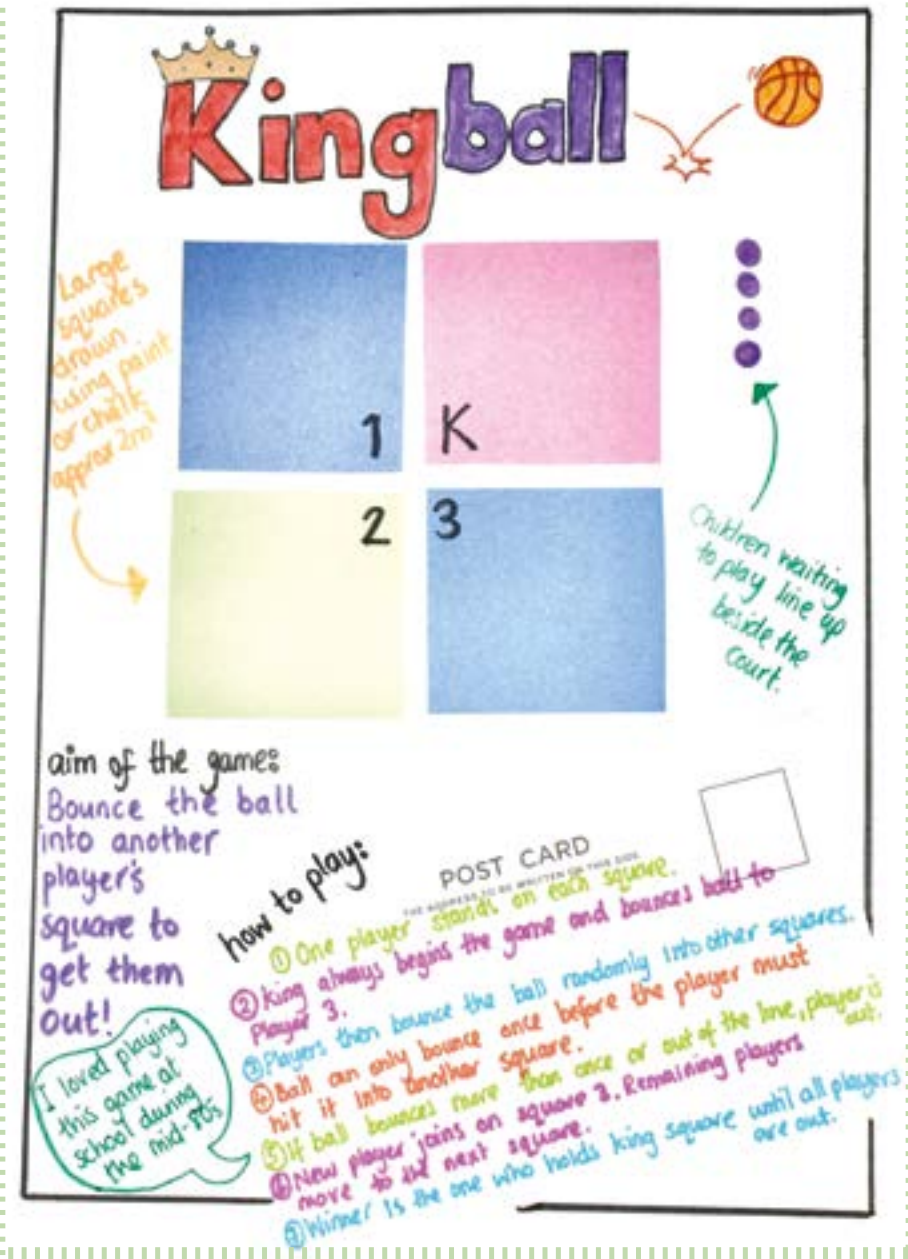
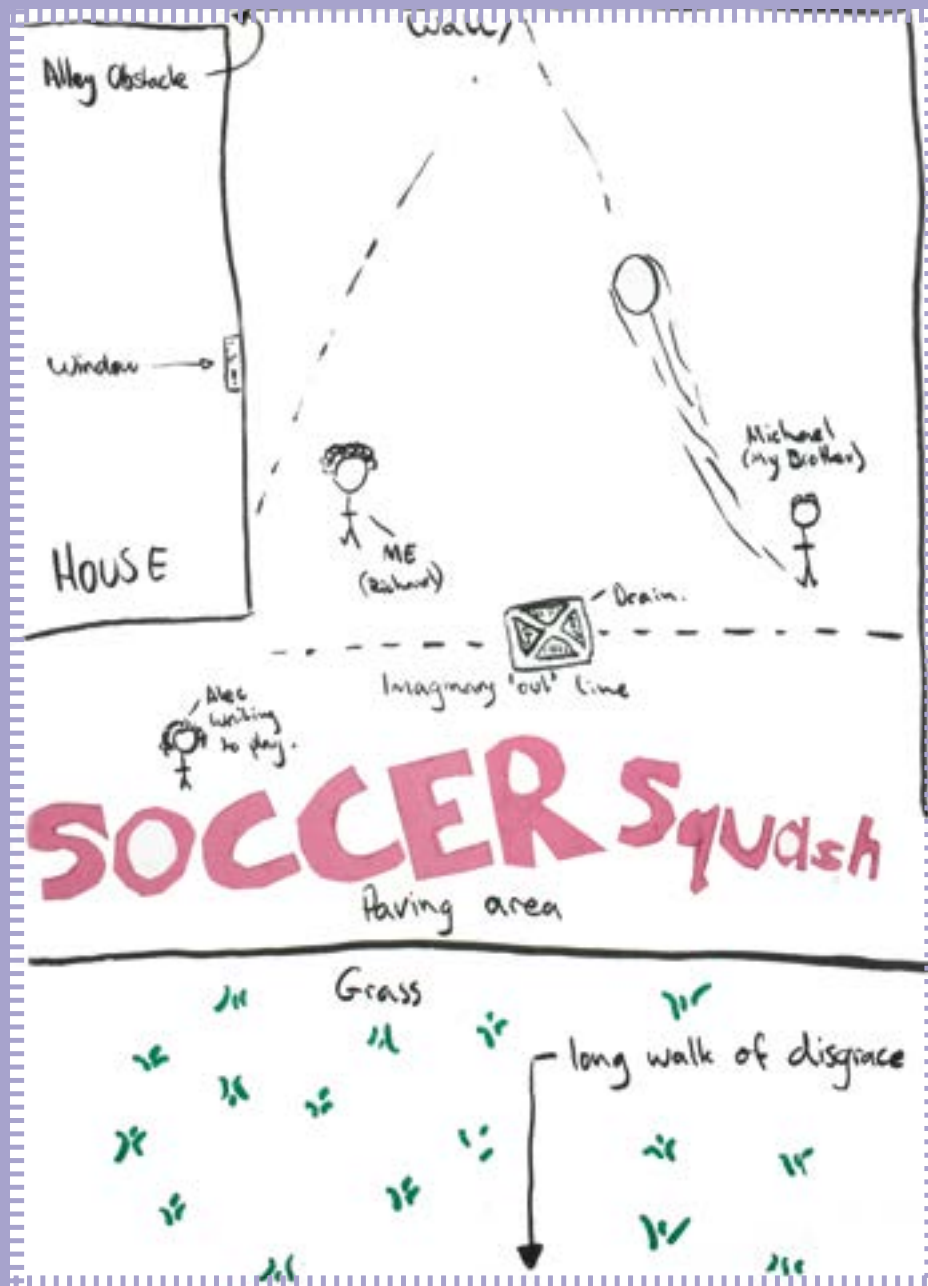
TUG OF WAR!

Grassmere Road, Croydon



The objective of the game is for each team to pull the rope at the same time to get the opposing team over the central line. The team that pulls their opponents across the line wins.

READY, SET, PULL!





Skipping rhymes

*Strawberry shortcake, cream on top
Tell me the name of your sweet top
'A', 'B', 'C', etc*

Children jump in on the letter of their name and all jump together. Or jump in on the month of their birthday.

*Bumper car, bumper car, number 48
Whizz round the corner
And put on the brakes!*

Children jump out at 'number 48' and run round the rope holder, jump back in and then onto the ropes at 'brakes' to stop the game.

Ask your parents or grandparents about the skipping rhymes they know!

turns assault course



Sussex Road, Kingston



How to play 'Piggy in the Middle'

You will need:

At least three players and a (soft) ball, beanbag or other projectile.

Instructions:

1. One player is 'piggy' and tries to intercept the ball as the other players pass it between them.
2. Play in a circle to accommodate more players.
3. If the piggy is younger, the rule can be to bounce the ball at least once between players.

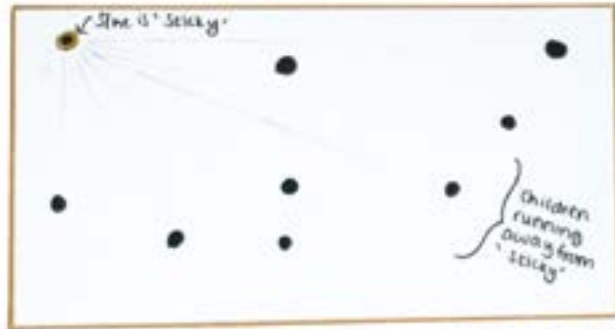
Other names for this popular game include 'Pickle in a dish' or 'Monkey in the middle'



Piper Road, Kingston

Grassmere Road, Croydon

sticky toffee



AIM OF THE GAME:

To get all players

STUCK

HOW TO PLAY:

1. The players decide who is going to be 'Sticky'
2. All start standing touching Sticky's fingers.
3. Sticky says: 'I went to the shops and bought --- repeating with various random items.'
4. When Sticky says: 'I went to the shops and I bought STICKY TOFFEE' all the players run.
5. If Sticky taps a player, they are 'stuck', standing still on the spot with their arms out.
6. Other players can free them by running under their arms.
7. The last player to be 'stuck' is the winner.



STUCK in the MUD



How to play 'Stuck in the Mud'

You will need:

Three or more players.

Instructions:

1. One person has to catch people while the others run away.
2. If you are caught, you must stand still on the spot, as if 'stuck in mud'.
3. Players that are still free can release you by tapping you.
4. The 'sticker' has to try and get all the other players 'stuck in the mud'.
5. There can be more than one 'sticker' if a single person finds it too hard.

London Play says....

Teddys vs Lava (right) might not be a typical street game but it is such a great example of kids' lockdown inventiveness that we had to include it. Combining the indoor wet day classic 'The Floor is Lava' with Teddys because, as creator Maja says... 'who doesn't like Teddys?!'

Why not challenge the children you know to adapt this game to one suitable for playing on the street? Maybe teddies flying between jumpers or lamp posts? They might surprise you!



SKATE BOARD SLALOM

1. Find a nice safe road
(get Mum and Dad to help).

2. Get a bike, roller blades,
skateboard or scooter -
and a helmet.

3. Make a slalom course (you can use
cones or plant pots or anything you have around).

4. The fastest one to
make it through the course
wins the first round.

5. In the next round, the
previous winner must
complete the course
two seconds faster in
order to win again.

6. If the previous
winner does not
win, the other
players can change the
course to make it harder
for the winner but easier
for them.



London Play says:

Bikes, scooters, roller blades, skateboards and all other forms of non-motorised wheeled transport come into their own on play streets! It is one of the few times that children can ride on the road without fear of traffic.

We have heard lots of stories of children learning to ride their bikes on play streets. And also many times where play streets have enabled children to ride on their own street for the first time ever.

We race on our bikes and scooters -
Last is a rotten egg!



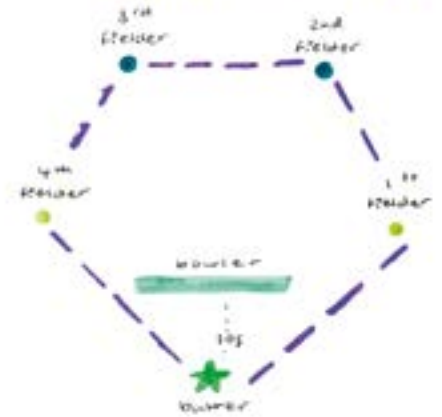
Game to children 5-10
years old

Grassmere Road, Croydon



ROUNDERS.

FORMATION



1. Play with 6 or more people & use a soft ball if playing on the street.
2. Split into two equal teams - one bats while the other fields.
3. The bowler bowls the ball. The batter hits it and then runs around as many 'posts' as possible before a fielder touches the ball to a post.
4. Half a point is scored for getting to 2nd or 3rd post, a whole point for getting to 4th post (home).

Dudley Road, Redbridge



How to bring your street alive with play



Play streets simply mean agreeing with your neighbours to open your street regularly to allow children to play and adults to socialise. By temporarily removing through traffic, a safe space is created where the whole community can flourish.

Children and adults have the opportunity to be active, get to know their neighbours better, and feel more connected to their local area. All things we have come to value more since the start of the pandemic. If this sounds good to you, get in touch! London Play has been helping people put play back on their streets since 2008.

Visit our dedicated London Play Streets website to find out more or drop us an email at info@londonplay.org.uk

www.londonplaystreets.org.uk

Back cover image: Piper Road, Kingston

