



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #80 GAMES PLAYED AROUND THE WORLD

HELLO PARENTS,

Play is universal. Children's desire and need to play is the same everywhere. Play is a fun and engaging way for children and families to spend time together. Playing games also supports healthy child development. When children play, their brains work better, they get stronger, and they can improve social and emotional skills. Play helps nurture imagination and gives children a sense of adventure. All around the world, children play all sorts of different games. To spark your child's sense of adventure, you can add a fresh international flavour to their play. In this newsletter, you will find different cultures with unique traditional games played by children around the world.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

FLY BIRD TICKLING GAME

This game came from Iraq. Parents play this game with their infants to try and make them laugh.

DIRECTIONS

- Let your child lay down or sit on your lap.
- Hold your child's hand and rub their palm.
- Sing this lullaby while doing the movements.

"FLY BIRD" LYRICS:

Shah bah currants and apples
There was a drop of water a bird took it
and flew
This one caught it
This one cut it
This one cooked it
This one ate it
And this one said where is my half?
He walked and walked and walked...
Tickle, tickle, tickle.

شاح باح كشمش تفاح
كان اكو نقطة ماي اخذا العصفور و طار
هاي مسكتوا
هاي قطعوا
هاي طبختوا
هاي اكلتوا
هاي قالت وين حصتي؟
مبي و مشي مشي
و كرر كرر كرر

[Click here](#) to learn the movements.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

WITH MY LITTLE FINGER

This children's song with gestures is sang and played in South America and the Caribbean. The song rhymes in Spanish and teaches the different parts of the body to children.

DIRECTIONS:

- Point to the different parts of the body and encourage your child to sing along and follow the gestures.
- Ask your child to point to the next body part and gesture "yes" and "no" as you sing. Continue singing replacing the last line with the next until you cover all the body parts.

"WITH MY LITTLE FINGER" LYRICS:

With my little finger I say yes, yes,	I say no, no
with my little finger I say no, no.	and this little foot hid.
I say yes, yes	With my head I say yes, yes
I say no, no	with my head I say no, no.
and this little finger hid.	I say yes, yes
With my little foot I say yes, yes,	I say no, no
with my little foot I say no, no.	and this head hid.
I say yes, yes	

[Click here](#) to listen to the song in Spanish.

[Click here](#) for traditional games played in Mexico.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

ELEPHANT STAMPEDE

Elephant Stampede is played in Kenya and is similar to Octopus Tag, which is played in Canada.

MATERIALS:

- Lots of space to run around
- 4 or more players

DIRECTIONS:

- This game is similar to what other countries call "tag".
- Two children are chosen to be the elephants, or "it". They link arms.
- The rest of the children run in an attempt to avoid being tagged by the "it" players.
- Any time a child is tagged, they must link arms with the other elephants. The last two children to be tagged are the elephants at the start of the next round.

[Click here](#) for more games.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

CATCH THE DRAGON'S TAIL

This game is played in China, where the Chinese dragons are symbols of power, strength and good luck. The mascot of Chinese New Year is the dragon!

MATERIALS:

- 4 or more players

DIRECTIONS:

- Players form a line with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them.
- The person at the front of the line is the dragon's head.
- The person at the end of the line is the dragon's tail.
- The dragon's head tries to tag the dragon's tail.
- The rest of the line tries to prevent the dragon's head from tagging the tail by waving in and out.
- The line must not break apart.
- When the head catches the tail, the tail player goes to the front and becomes the new dragon's head.

All of the other players move back one position.

[Click here](#) for more games.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

DISCUS THROWER-STATUE GAME

Canadian children may not be familiar with the classic Discus Thrower, but Greek children have access to some amazing marble statues that date to ancient times. After a trip to the museum, it is only natural that they would incorporate some of these awe-inspiring characters into an imaginative game.

DIRECTIONS:

- Choose one player to be "it" and have them stand, eyes covered, in the center of a large, open playing field.
- Player starts to count, at least to 10, but they can go higher. The point is that there is no set ending number; only "it" knows when they will stop and open their eyes.
- While "it" is counting, the others scatter around, never sure when "it" will say "Agalmata!" (that is "statue" in Greek. Players can also just say "statue").
- On this cue, players freeze, taking on poses that mimic famous statues. They can pose as any statue they have ever seen. For example: Javelin Thrower, The Thinker, or the Statue of Liberty.
- Players are allowed to use found items, such as sticks, a ball, or a frisbee, to add a touch of realism.
- If "it" tags any statues that are moving, they are out. Then "it" will try to make the statues laugh or move.
- The last player remaining as a statue is the winner and becomes the new "it."

[Click here](#) for more games around the world.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Introducing your child to different cultures allows them to understand the world better.
- Interact with people who come from diverse cultures.
- Share with your child games you played from your childhood.
- Listen to children's songs in different languages.