

# THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



by the team at islington play association 2010  
with thanks to all the children and  
families involved

# **BANOG-BANOG OR 'THE HAWK AND THE CHICKEN' (PHILIPPINES)**

## **Type of Game**

Group chase game

## **Number of Players**

4 or more children

## **Best location**

Outdoors with plenty of space

## **Resources**

None

## **Setting up**

You begin by selecting the Banog, or 'hawk', and a 'mother hen'. Traditionally, the hawk is the biggest boy, and the mother hen the biggest girl. All of the other children are 'chicks'.

When the game starts, the hawk and the hen face one another, with the chicks standing in a line behind the mother hen, each one holding the waist of the child in front. This line is supposed to remain unbroken throughout the game, and any chick that breaks out of the line is likely to be snapped up by the hungry hawk.

The hawk begins to harass the mother hen, who leads all of the chicks in dodging his attacks. The hawk can fake left or right, but cannot attack the hen directly.

The hawk can also run down the length of the line to attack the last chick – if this happens, the hen can choose to run down the length of the line to protect it, but this risks further breaks in the line. The chicks who have broken from the line can run from the hawk and try to make it back in behind the hen, but when a chick is caught they have to go stand to one side and wait for the next turn.

The game ends when all of the chicks have been taken.

### **VARIATION:**

One option is to allow the hen to get her chicks back from the hawk's nest, leading them back on her waist one by one and joining them to the line. This can involve teamwork, as the chicks run to distract the hawk while the hen goes on her rescue mission, and results in a much longer game.

“We was terrors, tying bits of cotton onto people’s knockers and hiding up on the balconies. We’d pull it and the people downstairs would come out and look around for who was there. Or we’d put all the threads together down the street and run so all the knockers went ‘click click click click click’ and everyone would come out at once. Or we’d play conkers, soak them in vinegar and harden them in the oven for hours.” (Harry)