

THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



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

CAT AND MOUSE (ROMANIA)

Type of Game

Circle game

Number of Players

4 – 20 children

Best location

Indoors or outdoors

Resources

None

Setting up

None

The children all stand in a circle facing inwards. In the centre is one child, chosen to be the 'mouse', and outside the circle is another who is chosen to be the 'cat'. It is the cat's job to catch the mouse.

The players who form the circle are there to help the mouse, and can raise their arms so the mouse can come in and out of the circle. They can also lower their arms to stop the cat, but they must be quick!

If the mouse is caught then he or she becomes the cat, and another mouse is chosen.

VARIATIONS:

A similar game is played in South Africa, called **Mbube Mbube** (Zulu for 'Lion Lion'), in which a lion stalks an impala, or buck.

In this version, both the lion and the impala are blindfolded and stay inside the circle. The children in the circle start the game by calling out the lion, chanting 'Mbube! Mbube!' As the lion moves towards the impala the children chant faster and louder, but if the lion moves farther away they chant more slowly and more softly.

If the lion has not caught the impala within the time limit then a new lion is chosen. If they have, then a new impala is chosen.

One girl swinging on the roof beams at school: "I was like a blooming monkey, blisters all up my hands. Mr. Thompson came up and he couldn't cane me, so he sent me to one of the lady teachers but when she saw my blisters she couldn't do it." (Tina)

"I couldn't go swimming because I was at Catholic school. The boys could, but not us girls. I didn't learn until I was sixty-two." (Mary)