

THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



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

LUPO MANGIA FRUTTA OR 'THE FRUIT-EATING WOLF' (ITALY)

Type of Game

Chase game

Number of Players

5 – 20 players

Best location

Outdoors

Resources

None

Setting up

None

A child is chosen to be the wolf or *lupo* who then walks 20 paces away and covers their ears. The other children cluster together and each one selects a different kind of fruit to be, such as apple, mango, etc.

Once they are all agreed, all of the 'fruits' stand together in a line opposite the wolf. The wolf then says 'toc toc' ('knock knock') and all the fruit ask 'who is it?' The wolf replies 'I am the fruit-eating wolf'. All of the other children playing call out, 'what fruit do you want?' and the wolf calls out the name of a fruit.

If one of the other children playing has chosen to be that fruit, that child must run away from the wolf, who tries to chase them. If the wolf

succeeds then that child is the wolf in the next round, and if not then the wolf has another turn.

VARIATIONS:

A safe place can be established that the children can run back to, called the Fruit Bowl.

Children can share the kind of fruit they are, to help their chance of survival. For example, two children might agree to be a pair of cherries, or a group may all decide to be a bunch of grapes and, if they are called by the wolf, confusing him or her by all running in different directions.

“What did I do when I was young? Drove my mother mad, I did! (Eileen, 82)

“We’d get some ham pieces for six pence, and some bottles of lemonade. We’d load up all the little kids in a big pram and go to Regent’s Park. Then we’d drop the little ones in the sand pit, say ‘stay’ and then go off and play. We’d stop for some food. We’d be there all day, not leave until five in the summer, and stop at St. Pancras for a go on the long slate slide on the way there and back. We’d come home with our knickers black!” (Doris, 88)