

THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



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

REGINA, REGINA BELLA OR 'QUEEN, BEAUTIFUL QUEEN' (ITALY)

Type of Game

Racing and pretend

Number of Players

4 or more children

Best location

Somewhere spacious

Resources

None

Setting up

None

First a 'Queen' is selected, who goes to the opposite end of the playground. The other players stand in a line and chant out:

'Beautiful beautiful Queen
How many steps do I have to take
To get to your castle with the faith
With the ring
With the tip of the knife?'

The Queen calls out a number of steps and an animal, and all the children take that number of steps pretending to be that animal. For example, if the Queen says '8 Elephants!' then the players take eight huge steps towards the Queen, making elephant noises and swinging their trunks. Anyone who steps out of turn or tries to cheat is sent back to the starting line.

The first one to make it to the Queen gets to be the Queen in the next round.

Did you know?

This is similar to the British game called Grandmother's Footsteps, and the American games Red Light Green Light and Ghost in the Graveyard. In Romania this game is played as The Queen's Stolen Steps, and in Israel it is called 1, 2, 3, Salted Fish. Children in Japan call it Darumasan ga Koronda except for in Osaka, where it is called Bosan ga He o Koita - which translates as 'A Monk Farted'.

