

THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



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

TSILIKI (GREECE)

Type of Game

Stick game

Number of Players

Two children, or two small teams

Best location

Outdoors

Resources

A long wooden stick of about 60-70cm (called the Tsilika), and a shorter piece of wood of about 10-20cm sharpened on both ends (Tsiliki)

Setting up

Dig a shallow hole in the ground and place the tsiliki in it.

Determining the first batsman

To find out who bats first, a player chosen at random flicks the tsiliki with the tsilika out of its hole with a move like a golf swing, then places the tsilika (long stick) over the empty hole. A second player stands where the tsiliki landed, throws the tsiliki at the tsilika (long stick) and attempts to hit it.

The first person who succeeds in hitting the tsilika (long stick) with the tsiliki in this way is allowed to bat first.

Playing the Game

The batsman places the tsiliki back into the hole and strikes it hard with the tsilika (long stick) on one end. It should fly up into the air! You then measure the distance it has traveled with the long stick and turn that number into points. For example, if it travels five stick lengths then the batsman gets five points.

The first player to fifty wins.

VARIATIONS:

If you are playing Dung Guli, then you use an egg-shaped piece of wood (dung) instead of the tsiliki. You begin with the shallow hole, just the same, but instead of striking the ball while it is on the ground the other player slow-pitches it towards the batter, who strikes it in the air. Because you traditionally use a piece of wood it does not travel far, and you still measure the distance in long-stick lengths, and the first player to fifty still wins.

If you are playing in teams, you can vary this by having other team members attempt to catch the ball, so the batsman then gets no points at all.

“We played ‘Mum and Dad’, or ‘House’. It was all we played for some time. If you had bread for breakfast you would save a little and take it away. Your friends would call and say ‘what are we playing?’ and you would call ‘house!’ One the mother, one the father, dolls all around for the babies. We would sweep the floor and bring in flowers and little things – we would make that house so nice! And have the bread for breakfast, then say ‘time for lunch’ and we would work or clean or say the baby was crying and we would care for it. Then we would say ‘time for bed’ and go to sleep then say ‘it’s morning’ and wake up – and all in a half an hour!” (Cy, 31, from Uganda)