



• Questionnaire

1

This is your chance to take part in a huge nationwide survey into what happens in school playgrounds. Please fill in the form to let us know what games you play, what rhymes you say, what rules you keep during playtime. Please try to give as many details as possible, and tell us which games you like, and if you play them a lot, or not very often. There will be a prize of £20-worth of Random House books for each of the five best entries.

Send your completed forms to:

The Lore of the Playground survey
Random House
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London
SW1V 2SA

First name:

Year you were born:

Town/Village/City where you live:

Are you a boy or a girl?:

chasing games

Do you play a game where one person is chosen to chase the others, and then when he or she catches another player, that player becomes the chaser?

What do you call this game?

Does the chaser have a special name?

How do you play?

Can you think of any other versions of the same game, for instance where the chasers have to hold hands? What are these versions called, and what happens in them?

Are there versions where people have to stand still when caught, or are put into a 'prison' until released?

Do you have any safe places in the playground where you can't be caught when playing?



across the playground

Some games start with everybody on one side of the playground and somebody in the middle, then everyone has to run across to the other side without getting caught. Do you know a game like this?

What is it called, and what happens?

sports games

Do you play a team game like football or rugby every day? How you organise the game?

Do you have a new team every day or do you keep the same ones?

How do you pick the captains?

How do you tell who's on whose side?

Are there any special rules?



starting a game or choosing sides

How do you choose who's going to be 'it'? Do you say a rhyme, for instance *eeny, meeny, miny mo*? What are the words?

Some people call choosing who's going to be 'it' 'dipping' or 'counting out' – what do you call it?

How do you make sure that you're being fair?

time out

If you want a short 'time out' in a game, do you have a special word you have to say or a gesture you do with your hands (such as crossing your fingers)?

singing games

Lots of children start playing games like *Ring a ring a roses* and *Oranges and Lemons* when they're very little. Do you play games with their own song? What are the words?

Are there special actions that go with the tune?



clapping games

Do you play any clapping games?

What rhymes do you say while doing the clapping?

Are clapping games always just between two people, or are there any other ways of playing them?

other games

Do you know a game where someone faces the wall while everyone creeps up behind them, or where the players have to say something like 'What's the time Mr. Wolf?', 'Mother, may I?', or 'Red Light'?

Can you describe any games like these?

ball bouncing

Do you play any games where you bounce balls and say or sing a rhyme? Can you describe how to play it and say what rhyme you use?

Are there any special rules, for instance 'one hand, one bounce'?



skipping

Do you ever skip with a rope?

Do you skip on your own, or in groups of three or more, taking it in turns to jump in and out and to turn the rope?

Do you have any rhymes which you say or sing while skipping? What are the words?

Are there other words to describe what is going on, for instance if you want to go faster or if someone does a particularly flashy trick?

elastics

Elastics is a game you play with at least three people and a long piece of elastic. Two people loop the elastic around their legs and the third person jumps over the stretched elastic and says a rhyme. Do you know this game? What do you call it?

What rhyme do you say?

And can you describe how you play the game?



conkers

Do you play *Conkers*? What are the rules?

Are there ways of making the conkers harder?

Do you use special words to describe the players of the different types of conker?

If I have a conker which has already beaten *three* others, and I beat yours which has already won *four* games, what would I call mine?

forbidden games

Are there any games which are not allowed in your school?

sayings and rhymes

Can you complete any of these sayings and rhymes, and say when you would use them?

Silence in the courtyard

When would you use this?

Order in the gallery

When would you use this?

**• Questionnaire**

7

made you look

When would you use this?

sticks and stones

When would you use this?

liar, liar

When would you use this?

roses are red

When would you use this?

cry baby

When would you use this?

tell tale

When would you use this?

red white and blue

When would you use this?

see this wet

When would you use this?

my finger's wet

When would you use this?

cross my heart

When would you use this?

cowardy

When would you use this?

Can you think of any other rhymes you might say?

Rhyme

When would you use this?

**Rhyme**

When would you use this?

Rhyme

When would you use this?

Do you know any rhymes about the school, or the teachers, or about the end of term?

Rhyme

When would you use this?

Rhyme

When would you use this?

Rhyme

When would you use this?

If two friends need to make up after an argument, is there something you say, or do, to make it OK?

If two of you say the same thing at the same time, is there something you say?

lucky and unlucky things

What things are *lucky* to do, see or find?

What things are *unlucky* to do, see or find?

Do you or your friends carry a lucky charm, or a mascot? If so, what is it?



the natural world

Do you say or do anything when you see or find:

a ladybird

a snail

a magpie

a rainbow

that it's raining

anything else like this?

special days and seasons

Are there any special days during the year which you celebrate by doing special things?

For instance, what would you do on

April Fool's Day

Hallowe'en

Guy Fawkes Night

Mischief night

Any other days?

Day

What you do



Day

What you do

Day

What you do

write your own description

Write a description of a usual playtime at your school.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

Describe your playground. Are there certain places where some groups of children play? What are the usual games which go on? Do all the different ages play together or do the younger and older ones play separately? Do boys and girls play together? What happens when it is too wet to play outside?
