

Indian Children's Games

Following are some of the games that children play in India. The first game in the list is the game that Sajida was playing with her friends in the video. The games use resources that can be found in the environment for free.

Middle and Upper Primary

Gitas (Sagar Gotay)

This game is similar to "knuckles", a game that used to be popular with children in Australia.

Girls mainly play this game. It is for at least two players, and they need 5, 7 or 9 small pebbles.

First round: One player throws all the pebbles on the floor except one. Then that pebble is thrown up into the air, one pebble from the floor is picked up quickly, and the pebble in the air has to be caught before it lands. This is continued till all the pebbles are caught.

Second round: Instead of just picking up one pebble at a time while the thrown pebble is in the air, they are picked from the floor in twos.

Third and following rounds: This process is repeated for threes, fours and so on.

In the last round, all the pebbles are collected at one go. Then all the pebbles are thrown up and caught on the back of the hand immediately.

A player is declared out if:

- She fails to catch the pebble thrown up
- She fails to collect the correct number of pebbles
- While collecting the pebbles, her hand touches the other pebbles.

Whoever finishes first without getting out is the winner.

Resource: <http://www.indianmirror.com/games/gam4.html>

Middle and Upper Primary

Balli

On a 5 metre long line, 12 players stand. A metre in front, another line, which is 4 metres long, is drawn. When the whistle is blown, the players run to the front line and stand on the line with both feet. Those who do not get a place on the line are out. Again a metre away, a three metre line is drawn, and the game continues. In this manner the line becomes shorter and shorter, and the player who remains till the end is declared the winner.

<http://www.indianmirror.com/games/gam4.html>

Junior Primary

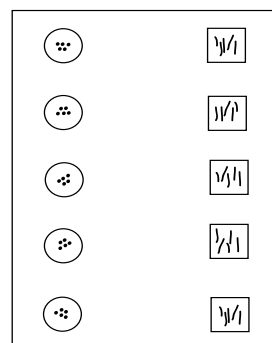
Seed Chain

A pile of tamarind seeds or some other small seeds are put in the center. (You could use counters, marbles, bottle caps, beads). Each child picks up a handful and counts them. If the number is even, the player keeps the handful. If it is odd, s/he has to return it to the pile. In the end, the child who gets the most seeds is the winner.

Junior Primary

Pick Up Race

For each child, a circle is drawn and 5 stones are placed in it. Then, opposite each circle, a square is drawn and 5 sticks are placed in it. When the whistle is blown, the children standing in the circles take a stone and run to the square opposite. They place the stone there and bring a stick from there and place it in the circle. This is repeated for all the stones and sticks, and the one who finishes first is the winner.



Junior Primary

Scorpion's Sting

To play this, you will need to define a play area which is not too large.

One player is the scorpion, who walks around on hands and feet. The scorpion tries to touch other players with its stinger (its back leg), as they tease it by creeping up and touching it.

The players try not to get stung. Anyone who does get stung becomes the new scorpion.

(From More Life, Be In It Games. ABC Books, 1990)

All Ages

Shade Tag

This game needs a set area with some sunny patches and some shady patches.

One person is selected as the chaser, and the rest of the group spread out ready for the game to begin. Players cannot be tagged while they are standing in the shade, but they can only stay in one piece of shade for a count of 10. After that, they must move out.

You can play two ways. In one option, the person tagged becomes the new chaser. The game goes on until everyone is exhausted! The other alternative is for a person tagged to become a chaser as well, so that the winner is the last person NOT tagged.

(From More Life, Be In It Games. ABC Books, 1990)

Middle/Upper Primary

Indian Softball

You will need a ball of some kind to play this game. Many Indian children make their own balls from plastic bags, bits of rubber or pieces of rag wrapped around and around each other. Making the ball then becomes part of the game!

A softball diamond is marked out on the ground, with the bases identified by stones or other markers. The game is played as in softball, except that instead of hitting the ball, the "batter" kicks it.

The "batter" or runner is out if:

- the ball is caught on the full.
- the runner is hit by the ball between bases.
- the ball is placed on the base, or on home base, before the runner reaches it.

Instead of a ball, some children use a short length of rubber hose, placed across two stones at home base. In this variation, the runner can only be hit below the knee between bases.

(From Life, Be In It Games. Ashton Scholastic and Budget Books, 1980.)



Other Games

Rubbish relay

- Divide groups into teams.
- Give all students a pair of disposable rubber gloves.
- Have a large tub or bin of clean rubbish (cardboard cartons, egg containers, plastic bags, plastic trays...) at one end of the playing space.
- Divide the students into teams (according to the size of your group).

Students go out one at a time, collect one piece of rubbish and bring back to the team and place in the bag/basket.

End the game, either according to a time limit, or when all the rubbish in the tub has been collected.

The winning team will have collected the most rubbish. Wash your hands afterwards.

For an added twist to the game, you could require the students to have the rubbish sorted into piles, or ask that each team collect a set number of items in various categories. The winning team then becomes the one who completes the task first.

Going Further

Upper Primary

Use the Rickshaw Game or Basti Life simulation game from the TEAR website.

Rickshaw is easier and quicker to run.

Basti Life will need a fair bit of preparation from a small team of people.

Lower and Middle Primary children will enjoy the Daily Life game.

For all of these, look under the Educational resources, Simulation games.

Or direct link: <http://www.tear.org.au/resources/simgames.htm>