



The World is Our Playground!



*"Basketball is my refuge, my sanctuary.
I go back to being a kid on the playground.
When I get here, it's all good."* Kobe Bryant



The aim of this activity was to create a playground games club who could learn, then teach some World playground games to our younger children.

The club started by learning some French games, which they then taught to the Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes.

We then invited parents from different countries to share playground games from their childhood.

Jarryd – It's fun to get to see the other years and teach them the games!

Iris – It's nice helping people to learn new things. I told Seb the words and he said "I don't really think I can do that!" So I said "You can say it English, it's 1,2,3, sun! I told him when I say **"un, deux, trois, soleil"** he needs to say "one, two, three, sun!" And he did!"

Alex – I felt quite happy because I knew someone related was coming (my mum) and knew that other people would get to know my games.

Comment jouer à 1 2 3 Soleil!



[How to play "1 2 3 Soleil!"](#)

Miss David came to our club and taught us how to play the game.

We then taught it to the Nursery children.

We were very excited to get this message from Miss David, who is half French. She was born in France and lived there when she was a child!

I grew up playing 1,2,3 soleil. It is a French game that is a bit like "What's the time Mr Wolf?" One person stands facing away from the other children and the others try to reach that child whilst their back is turned. The person who has turned away counts 1,2,3 soleil. When they say soleil they face to turn the other children and they make sure that nobody moves. If you move you are out.



This is how you play the game...

Décidez la personne qui est "La Sentinelle"



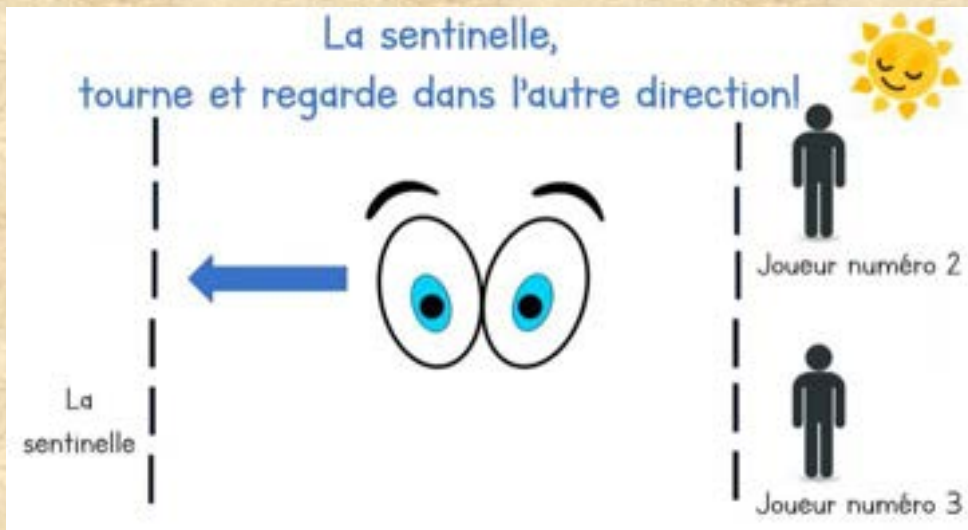
Decide who is the guard.

Prenez vos positions!



Get into your positions.





The guard
turns and
faces the
other way.



One, two, three...



Soleil !



Joueur numéro 2



Joueur numéro 3

Il ne faut pas bouger!



La
sentinelle



Soleil! Don't move!

Un, deux, trois...soleil!



Joueur numéro 2

Joueur numéro 3



La
sentinelle



The winner
reaches the
guard first!

**We loved teaching this
one to the Orchard
Nursery!**



(SOME) GREEK TRADITIONAL GROUP GAMES TO PLAY



APPLES [MILA]

Two players stand opposite each other, about 20 metres away, while all other children stand in the middle of this distance (in the centre). The two players have a ball between them and, in throwing it towards each other, try to 'hit' /touch one of the children in the middle (not too hard, and with a soft, preferably inflatable ball). If someone in the middle gets 'hit', she/he has to exit. If someone catches the ball, she/he gets credit for when she/he might be hit subsequently (these credits can be passed on to someone else too). When there is only one child in the middle, then the two ball players only have 10 strikes. If she/he escapes, then she/he wins. [This is a great game for agility].

Alex's mum Anna kindly came in to teach us some games from Greece, where she was born.

Apples, or Mila, was the first game we learnt.



THE CAT [H GATA]

One child pretends to be a cat. The others are some distance away. They ask each time: "kitty, kitty, what colour do you like, what colour do you prefer?" Then the 'cat' will name a colour and the children have to run to find something of this colour. If a child does not have the chance to find something appropriate, then she/he becomes the 'cat'. [This can be played in the yard with some colourful scattered objects, or in the classroom].



The second game we learnt was this one called The Cat.



**We taught it to the
children in the
Orchard Nursery and
played it on different
days!**

*"Kitty, kitty which
colour do you like?"*



"Pink!"



"Red!"



"Blue!"



Alex - Let's teach "Where's the ring?" to Reception! (This was another game Anna taught us!)

WHERE IS THE RING? [POUNDO POUNDO TO DAHTILIDI]

All children form a circle; one child is in the middle. They all have their hands cupped together, to form a little 'cave'. The central child has a small ring in her/his cupped hands. She/he goes round the circle, pretending to drop the ring in the outstretched cupped hands, while all sing: "Where is the ring? Where is the ring? Here it is, there it is, you won't find it! You won't find the ring you're looking for!". By the end of the song, the central child needs to have given the ring to someone, without anyone else being made aware of this. The recipient has to hide the ring on her/him and the others have to find who has it and where (e.g. shoe). Whoever finds the hidden ring then becomes the central child.

Alba – I love teaching the Nursery because they learn our games so quickly!



Iris - With Daisy I was her partner for the Kitty game. So I let her decide what we were taking and I asked her if she wanted to be the Kitty!

I love teaching the Nursery because they are so sweet and they listen very well.
Eulalia



Regina Regina Bella

Regina, Regina Bella

This game requires a minimum of 4 players minimum, although groups of 10 are ideal. One player is chosen to be the "regina" ("queen"), who stands facing the others across the playground. The other children chant:

"Regina Regina bella, quanti passi devo fare per arrivare al tuo castello con la fede, con l'anello, con la punta del coltello?"

("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 then calls out both a number and the name of an animal. The children must take that many steps toward her, walking in imitation of the animal named. The first child to reach the queen wins.

Eulalia's parents are Italian, and she helped us with this game, reading the Italian and helping us to pronounce the words. We used the first sentence "**Regina, regina bella, quanti passi devo fare?**" when teaching the game to the Nursery children. We watched a video of children playing this game, then we practised in class. Once we felt confident we taught it to the Nursery!



**“Regina, regina
bella, quanti passi
devo fare?”**

*“Beautiful queen,
how many steps
must I take?”*

**“Two steps like a
cat!”**





Eulalia's mum Glenda joined our club to help us with our Italian pronunciation of **"Regina, Regina Bella!"**



She also taught us another game called **“Uno, due, tre, stella!”** This is the same game as the French game **“un, deux, trois soleil,”** but it’s in Italian! In Italy, the words are “one two three star”, rather than “one, two, three, sun!”



Turn, turn around
The world is falling down
The earth is falling down
Everybody's sitting down!

She also taught us this lovely song...

Giro giro tondo
Casca il mondo
Casca la terra
Tutti giù per terra.

**“It was fun when she came in,
learning new games!” Junior**

**“I liked Glenda teaching us because I liked her accent
when she spoke in Italian. It was a sing song accent.
Italian is a bit similar to French in my opinion. I like
French and I might learn Italian one day.” Iris**



The club taught the games
to Year 1 and Reception!
Here they are playing
“Regina, Regina Bella!”



**Here are the club teaching Year 1
the game “un, deux, trois soleil!**



**“I liked teaching Year 1 because they listened and they joined in very well!
I was looking forward to it because I like spending time with young
children! I used to look after young children at my childminders.” Iris**

**“At first it made me nervous because I’m not used to being around little
children. It felt a bit awkward at first but after that it was fine because I
once got to see the little kids I enjoyed it.” Junior**



We also played Duck, Duck, Goose in French with the Nursery...

**“Canard, canard,
canard, canard,
canard...”**



“...OIE!”



...and again with Year 1!

**“Canard, canard, canard, canard, canard...
...OIE!”**



Year 1 feedback on their favourite games!

It was exciting
because I saw my
Year 6 friend!
Noah

It was a bit scary but I gave it a good
go! It was scary saying another
language!
Eloise

I liked the animal
one. I liked saying the
numbers. **Un deux
trois!**
Oliver



I liked it when they came down
and I liked the duck duck goose
game. It was **canard canard
oie!**
George

I liked when they came
down. I liked the game
when we had to go in a
line and they said "**un
deux trois soleil!**"
Teddy N

I liked all of
them!
Natalia

My favourite was the queen one
because I liked walking like animals!
Teddy S

le facteur n'est pas passé

Le facteur n'est pas passé Jeu du facteur (French)

Le facteur n'est pas passé

Il ne passera jamais

Lundi, mardi, mercredi

Jeudi, vendredi, samedi

Dimanche

("Fermez les petits pois" ou

"Fermez les petits pois chez soi")

The mailman didn't pass by,

He will never pass by,

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday, Saturday,

Sunday

("Close the peas" or

"Close the peas at home.")

Instructions: The children sit in a circle. The mailman/woman has a handkerchief or a piece of material. While the children sing, he/she goes round the circle. When they sing "close the peas" they all close their eyes and the handkerchief is dropped behind someone's back. When that child notices it, she/he picks it up and runs round the circle to try to catch the mailman/ mailwoman. If the mailman reaches the empty space and sits down, the child with the handkerchief becomes the new mailman/ mailwoman! Otherwise the game resumes with the same mailman/ mailwoman.



**We watched a French
class playing this game,
which helped us with the
words!**

**We are going to continue
to learn more games and
teach these to the
younger classes next year.**

What the adults thought....

"By inviting international parents, including myself, to share games they learnt and played as children, Mrs Herrin has done exceptional work in celebrating the diversity of the school. I am also truly thankful to her for enriching my child's education in this way." Anna S

"This activity has been great fun and it's been exciting to have parents and teachers sharing games they played as a child. The club has loved teaching the younger children and we want to continue this into next year, so that we build up a pack of International games to play at playtimes!" Mrs Herrin

"It was really moving to see loads of children in the playground enjoying a game I grew up with. I played it constantly as a child as soon as the sun was up! The club were all so engaged and obviously so keen to learn the games. Seeing the younger children's smiley faces when they played the games was really heart-warming. I felt proud being able to share a part of my childhood!" Miss David

"Moles loved learning the French games. I was impressed by how much of the French vocabulary they remembered. It's been lovely to see them playing the games independently at playtime!" Miss Johnstone

"The Nursery children look forward to the club coming every Monday and they ask what ask what they are going to teach us. They really enjoy having the older ones there with them!"

Mrs Ogborne (Nursery teacher)