

Hungarian folk games

Utolsó pár előre fuss (Pair behind run ahead)

Players stand in pairs hand in hand in a column. They elect a „pussy”. He will catch the others. He stands ahead and has no pair. He calls the last pair who stands behind.

„ Utolsó pár előre fuss ”(Pair behind run ahead)

Then they run ahead on the sides of the column. They have to take each other by hand again in front of the caller. But the caller can catch any of them before they take each other by hand again.

The caller can't see back meanwhile the last pair is running ahead. He can catch them only after they get in front of him.

The one he caught will be the caller, the new „ pussy ” and the caller who caught him will stand with the other player in the front of the column. If the caller couldn't catch anybody he will be the caller again. The new caller calls the next pair and those run ahead.

Children play this game until they get bored.



Halászás (Fishing-chain tag)

Before playing the game we mark out the lines until children can run. We elect a fisherman. The others will be fish. To a whistle the others begin to run ahead, because that child who is caught by the fisherman will be fisherman too. When the fisherman caught the first child they run together hand in hand. The next child they caught has to join to them as well. Catching new fish is not easy at the beginning because as many fishermen there are they want to run in many directions. Catching somebody is only valid if fishermen don't let each other's hands. Later it's easier to catch fish when the fishing net is longer.



Adj király katonát! (King give me soldier)

This play can be played by 20-30 children. First the players are divided into two equal groups. Then we elect two kings. They will be the leaders of their groups. They will choose the members of their groups. They choose by turns. The kings arrange their groups face to face into two parallel lines about 15-20 steps far from each other. The members of the group take each others hands very strongly. The best is to take each others wrists. The king checks if the chain of his group is strong enough. After this one of the kings call out the other king: "Adj király katonát!" (King give me soldier.)

The other king replies: "Nem adok." (I don't give.)

The first caller king answers: „Szakíts ha tudsz.” (Tear if you can.)

The king names from his group the strongest boy or girl who runs as fast as he or she can and tries to tear the chain of the other group. He or she has to know where is the other group's chain is the weakest. If his , her choice was good and the chain was torn there, the two players of the other group where the chain was torn have to go with him or her as prisoners behind his, her group. For them the play is over. If the attack was successful his, her group can attack again. If it was unsuccessful the other group can attack. So the group who gets prisoners can always continue the game. The winner is the group who gets the most prisoners during a certain time or catches all the members of the other group, their king as well.



Mókusok ki a házból (Squirrel without house)

You can play it either in the gymnasium or in the playground. You need hoops but one less than the number of the players.

We put the hoops uniformly strewed about on the ground. To a whistle everybody has to take, to step in a hoop . The player who doesn't get a hoop will be the „ squirrel without a house ” To the cry of him or her „Mókusok ki a házból! Egy, kettő, három ”(Squirrels run out of your house ! One, two, three.) every child has to run out of their houses and has to stand in another hoop. Who doesn't get a hoop, that will be the new „ squirrel without a house ”.

Rules:

- Players can leave the house only after call.
- Players always have to look for a new house.
- The new house is that player's who arrives and steps in the hoop first.
- In one house there can be only one player. You mustn't push each other from the hoop.



Karikadobálás (Throwing hoops)

We place a cross made of wood on the ground of which has vertical poles on its ends. We draw a line at about 2 metres from it. Players will throw the hoops from behind it. The first player gets five hoops made of twigs. He or she tries to throw the hoops one by one on the poles of the cross. Who throws the most hoops on the poles is the winner.



Csúzli (Catapult)

It is a toy of boys but girls like to play with it, too. It is easy to prepare. Children can make it themselves at home from the things can be found around the house. You only need a branch of tree shaped of Y, a piece of rubber string and a piece of leather. For example at Easter it was a common game shooting on a cocks when they had to hit the stomach of the cock that was painted on the target.

