

## ‘Play’

We had a go at the game that the children from Uganda sent us. Both Nursery and Reception found it quite tricky. We shared with them some of the circle game which our children like to play.

Nursery were recorded playing ‘Duck, Duck, Goose’ and Reception were recorded singing ‘Ring-a-ring-a-roses’. We went the partner schools in Italy and Uganda a powerpoint with video’s of our chosen games. Both schools said that they were going to have a go and let us know how they got on. The school in Italy are unable, for safeguarding reasons, to send photo’s so they are going to send instructions for how to play an Italian outside game.

**The games we play!!!**

Sharing of outside games between Bishop King and our partner schools in Uganda and Italy.

The children in Uganda sent us a video of an outside game that their younger children enjoy playing when outside.

The children in both Nursery and Reception at Bishop King had a go. They found it very tricky.

We recorded children from Bishop King Nursery completing one of their favourite outside games- Duck, Duck, Goose. We sent the video's to the other partner school for them to have a go at playing the game.

We sent the video's of our children playing the game to our partner schools and the below description.

Duck, Duck, Goose is a classic children's game played with a group of people in a circle. One player, the "it" or "goose," walks around the circle tapping each player on the head while saying "duck". When "goose" is said, the tapped player becomes the "goose" and chases the original "it" player around the circle, trying to tag them before they can sit in the goose's spot.

The children in Reception recorded another traditional outside circle game for the children in our partner schools to have a go at.

We also plan to send them photographs of our Sport's Day.

An teacher from our Italian partner school said play was *‘the universal language of childhood’* and that *‘it is through play that children understand each other and make sense of the world around them.’* This is fantastic way of describing ‘play’ and illustrates that other cultures and countries put the same importance on play as we do in the UK. It was great that the Italian teachers listed positive impacts of outside play as when we were part of a Comenius project in 2012 we visited Italy and noticed that there were no playgrounds. This has obviously changed over the last few years and although they stated that some barriers to learning outside are lack of space to renovate and time to be outside which are also true within many UK settings, they are obviously very aware of the benefits. However, the teachers in Nigeria stated that ‘they don’t have toys at school as they come to school to learn’. Teachers therefore found it tricky to complete the questionnaires as the only ‘toys’ they have are pieces of sports equipment, such as skipping ropes and balls. The head teacher said that they also have limited toys at home and that ‘play’ to them is about being outside. This was interesting for us and explained why many of the children who arrive at BK from Nigeria find ‘playing’ and ‘sharing’ very challenging. We also find that the parents are more interested in academic achievements and often aren’t concerned about their social skills and how they interact with peers. From the interactions between the 2 schools it can be assumed that they believe ‘play’ to be actual group games which are adult initiated and what we would consider to be ‘structured play’. This will support us with future conversations with parents new to the British education system. Due to permission issues in Italy much of our vast evidence, which can be found on our

website, is of children's drawings which meant all could join in no matter level of language development they were. A teacher from BK said that 'we assume play makes them happy but it was good to actually speak to them about their feelings on play.' All children talked about play being a positive experience, some said that they found sharing tricky and a child said 'sharing is hard but you feel good when you share'. In the videos from Nigeria the children playing the circle game are clearly really enjoying it. A Italian teacher commented that play 'reduces stress, improves mood and fosters a sense of wellbeing.'