



Illustration: Martin Haake

At playtime

Young schoolchildren spend time outdoors at playtime. VANESSA CLARK presents key language to talk about the games and other activities they enjoy.

MEDIUM PLUS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. clapping game
[ˈklæpɪŋ geɪm] | 12. hopscotch
[ˈhɒpskɒtʃ] |
| 2. chasing [ˈtʃeɪsɪŋ] | 13. skipping rope
[ˈskɪpɪŋ rəʊp] UK,
jump rope
[ˈdʒʌmp rəʊp]
N. Am. |
| 3. whistle [ˈwɪsəl] | 14. throwing and
catching
[θrəʊɪŋ ənd
ˈkæʃɪŋ] |
| 4. playhouse
[ˈpleɪhaʊs],
Wendy house
[ˈwɛndi haʊs] UK | |
| 5. slide [slaɪd] | |
| 6. hula hoop
[ˈhu:lə hu:p] | |
| 7. stilts [stɪlts] | |
| 8. monkey bars
[ˈmʌŋki bɑ:z] | |
| 9. climbing frame
[ˈklaɪmɪŋ freɪm],
jungle gym
[ˈdʒʌŋɡl dʒɪm]
N. Am. | |
| 10. bench [bentʃ] | |
| 11. litter bin
[ˈlɪtə bɪn] UK,
trash can
[ˈtræʃ kæn] N. Am. | |



Time to play

After two hours of lessons, everyone is ready to **get some fresh air** at **playtime**, or **break** (N. Am. **recess**). The children come streaming out of their classrooms into the **playground** (N. Am. **schoolyard**) and start **running around**. The **boisterous** children need to **let off steam**, **clambering** on the **climbing frame**, using the **play equipment** and **joining in** the **football** or **chasing games** like **tag**. There are lots of **hiding places** for a game of **hide and seek** (N. Am. **hide and go seek**). **Skipping** is still popular, and some of the old traditional **skipping rhymes** and **clapping rhymes** can still be heard. Other children might prefer to play more **imaginative games**, **pretending** to be ponies, pirates or princesses. The cooler bigger kids (the 10- and 11-year-olds) just **hang out**, chatting.

The teachers **on playground duty**, and the **lunchtime supervisors** during the longer break at midday, encourage the children to **play nicely together** and to **take turns** with the equipment. They make sure no child is being **bullied** or **excluded**. Many schools now have a **buddy bench**, where a child can sit if he or she feels lonely and would like someone to play with.

A lot of the more physical games from the old days are now **banned**. No more **leapfrog** (**jumping** over another child's back), no more **rough chasing** or **catching games** like the **infamous British bulldog**, and no more **kiss chase!**

What's the weather?

Teachers say that windy weather makes children wild. As far as possible, it's good for schoolchildren to play outdoors **in all weathers**, but if the rain is heavy, then the decision is made for **wet playtime** and everyone has to stay **cooped up indoors**.

Wendy house

In Britain, the toy house is named after the character Wendy in J. M. Barrie's play *Peter Pan*, in which the Lost Boys build a little house around Wendy to protect her when she is **injured**.

ban [bæn]
- verbieten

boisterous [ˈbɔɪstərəs]
- ausgelassen, wild

British bulldog
[ˌbrɪtɪʃ ˈbʊldɒɡ] UK
- Fangspiel; etwa: Wer hat Angst vorm Schwarzen Mann?

buddy [ˈbʊdi] ifml.
- Freund, Kumpel

bully [ˈbʊli]
- mobben

chasing game [ˈtʃeɪsɪŋ geɪm]
- Fangspiel

clamber [ˈklæmbə]
- klettern

clap [klæp]
- klatschen

cooped up [ku:pt ˈʌp]
- eingepfercht, eingesperrt

exclude [ɪkˈsklu:d]
- ausschließen

imaginative [ɪˈmædʒɪnətɪv]
- fantasievoll

infamous [ˈɪnfəməs]
- berühmt-berüchtigt

injure [ˈɪndʒə]
- verletzen

let off steam
[ˌlet ɒf ˈsti:m] ifml.
- Dampf ablassen

skipping [ˈskɪpɪŋ] UK
- Seilspringen

tag [tæg]
- Fangen

take turns [teɪk ˈtɜ:nz]
- sich abwechseln

At www.spotlight-online.de/teachers/picture-it, you can find German translations for these words, as well as our Vocabulary archive.