

# LET'S PLAY!

## NEIGHBOURHOOD STREET GAMES: PROMOTING FUN & COMMUNITY BONDING



Building a healthy Australia through play



**Neighbours Every Day**

Create Belonging  
Share Belonging



Having a strong sense of community is essential for vibrant and supportive neighbourhoods. The neighbourhood street can be a perfect playground for children and families to engage in games that promote fun, physical activity, and community connection.

Street games encourage social interaction, creativity, and outdoor play while fostering a sense of belonging within your neighbourhoods. Brought to you by Very Neighbourly Organisation Play Australia and Neighbours Every Day, this information sheet provides a variety of exciting and inclusive street game ideas to enjoy with your neighbours and strengthen your community bonds, as well as tips on how to get started!

### Where to start...

#### Invite your Neighbours Out to Play.

One way to foster connection and create meaningful relationships with your neighbours is by asking them to join you for some fun activities. Try the following tips and suggestions on how to ask your neighbours to play and engage in enjoyable experiences together, boosting neighbourhood camaraderie and friendship.

##### 1. Start with Openness and Friendliness:

- Be approachable: Smile, wave, and greet your neighbours whenever you see them. Establishing a friendly rapport makes it easier to connect later.
- Engage in casual conversations: Take the opportunity to chat with neighbours when you have a chance, whether it's about shared interests, neighbourhood news, or common activities your families enjoy.



## 2. Identify Shared Interests:

- Observe and listen: Notice the activities or hobbies your neighbours engage in, such as gardening, biking, or walking their pets. This will help you identify potential shared interests.
- Ask questions: When you have conversations with your neighbours, inquire about their hobbies, favourite pastimes, or any upcoming events they may be interested in attending. This allows you to discover common ground for potential activities.

## 3. Be Proactive and Creative:

- Suggest a shared activity: With your newfound knowledge of your neighbours' interests, propose an activity that aligns with them. For example, you could invite them for a friendly game of soccer at the local park, a picnic in the neighbourhood, a bike ride, or a community clean-up day.
- Host a block party: Organise a gathering on your street, inviting all neighbours and their families. Provide games, food, and entertainment to encourage people to mingle and have fun.

## 4. Utilise Communication Channels:

- In-person invitations: Approach your neighbours when you see them outside and extend a personal invitation to join you in an activity. Share your enthusiasm and let them know you'd love to spend time together.
- Flyers or written invitations: Create simple flyers or handwritten invitations that outline the activity and provide details. Distribute in person or via your neighbours' letterboxes.



## Time to Play

These street games provide opportunities for interaction, laughter, and community building right outside your home. Embrace the spirit of play, get to know your neighbours, and make lasting memories together.

### 1. Street Party Favourites:

- **Street Hockey:** Set up nets or create makeshift goals using cones or objects. Use foam or soft balls to ensure safety and have friendly matches right on your street.
- **Three-Legged Race:** Grab a partner, tie one leg together, and race against other pairs to the finish line. This classic game promotes teamwork and coordination.
- **Water Balloon Toss:** On warmer days, engage in a water balloon toss competition. Start close together and gradually increase the distance as the game progresses, but be prepared to get wet!

### 2. Classic Outdoor Games:

- **Capture the Flag:** Split into teams, designate territories, and hide flags. The goal is to capture the opposing team's flag while protecting your own.
- **Kick the Can:** Similar to 'Capture the Flag', but with a twist. One person guards a can while others try to kick it before being caught. The caught players are placed in a designated area until someone successfully kicks the can to free them.
- **Street Baseball/Softball:** Use a designated area as your improvised diamond, with bases drawn on the street using chalk, and play a friendly game of baseball or softball with neighbours.

### 3. Creative and Imagination-Based Games:

- **Street Charades:** Create a list of different actions, occupations, or objects. Take turns acting out these items while others guess. Use gestures, facial expressions, and body movements to communicate your charade.
- **Storytelling Circle:** Form a circle on the street and start a collaborative storytelling game. Each person adds a sentence or two to continue the story, taking turns to weave a tale together.

### 4. Neighbourhood Olympics:

- **Obstacle Course:** Design and set up a simple obstacle course using various objects found in your neighbourhoods, such as cones, hula hoops, or jump ropes. Time each participant as they navigate the course and see who completes it with the fastest time.
- **Long Jump:** Use sidewalk chalk to mark a starting line and take turns leaping as far as possible. Measure the distance and encourage friendly competition.

Remember to prioritise safety when playing on the street - ensure that participants are aware of traffic rules, take necessary precautions for visibility, and supervise young children appropriately.

Other resources:

[1000 Play Streets Community Connect + Play Guide](#)

For more information to connect, create and share belonging visit:

<https://neighbourseveryday.org>

<https://playaustralia.org.au/1000-play-streets>



## Neighbour Day - Last Sunday in the Month of March

*What are you doing to celebrate?*

<https://neighbourseveryday.org/day-of-action/>

[www.playaustralia.org.au](http://www.playaustralia.org.au) Building healthy communities through play