

Greek traditional games for little kids



1st : Perna perna I melissa (The bee goes...)

How the game is played:

1. Two children are the team leaders.
2. Each of them chooses something an impressive or favorite thing.
3. For example, one chooses a nice cake with chocolate and the other chooses a nice ice cream with vanilla. Or one chooses the beautiful Queen with the diamond crown and the other, the mermaid with the golden hair.
4. Then the two leaders stand opposite each other and the rest of the kids make a line next to the two leaders.
5. The two children start clapping their hands above their heads creating something of an arch so that the rest of the children can pass under this arch, one by one, while singing:

“Perna perna I melissa me ta melisopoula
kai me ta pedopoula, pedopoula”.

It means:

“The bee goes by – goes by, with the
baby bees and the baby kids, baby kids.

- The two leaders stop the last child passing through and they whisper in its ear the thing they've chosen. The child then has to choose which of the objects he/she prefers.
6. Let's assume the child chooses “ice cream” for example. Then the child goes to stand behind the leader that has picked “ice cream” as a favorite object.
 7. The same is repeated for the rest of the children so that all children can choose.
 8. Finally, two lines are formed, one behind each leader.
 9. The two leaders hold hands firmly, while the children that are behind each leader connect by wrapping their arms around each others waist. The two formed teams try to pull the other team.
 10. The team that manages to do that, wins.

2nd : Little Helen

A girl sits in the centre of a circle . The girl assumes the name of “Helen” for the duration of the game. She pretends to cry while the rest of the children, holding hands, forming a circle around her are singing :

“Little Helen sits and cries, because her friends do not play with her.
Stand up, close your eyes, look at the sun and try to find us.”

When the song ends, the circle breaks and the girl that is Helen, stands up with her eyes closed, turns her head to the sun and tries to catch one of the children. When she catches a girl, she tries (while keeping her eyes closed) to recognise her, so that she can take her place and the game can go on.

