

TAIL-CATCHER



EQUIPMENT

Tails – e.g. ribbons in different colours. At least twice as many ribbons as there are children. Chalk or cones. Optionally, more adults.

PREPARATION

Mark off the playing area. Nominate two or more ‘catchers’, who put their bikes to one side. The other children stay on their bikes and each receives a tail, which is tucked into the back of their collar or trousers. The adult is the tail-keeper; he or she carries a bag of spare tails.



HOW TO PLAY

The riders must avoid having their tails snatched by the tail-catchers. If they lose their tails, they ride to the tail-keeper and are given a new one. The tail-catchers return the tails to the tail-keeper as they catch them, so there are always enough tails to hand out. Play continues until the tail-catchers can't run any more. New tail-catchers are nominated and the game can start again at the beginning.

Tip: Give space to children who don't want their tails to be taken. After a few goes, they too will be ready to join in fully.

RIDERS PRACTISE

- Keeping on riding for long periods
- Keeping their bearings and steering the bike while also paying attention to what's behind them
- Coping with having their tails taken

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING THE GAME

Simplification: Only the adult steals tails

Development: The children have to steal each other's tails while riding (only for the very cycle-safe ones!).

Variation: The tail-catchers are issued with ribbons, each in a different colour that shows what colour tails they are hunting for. When your tail gets stolen, you choose a tail of a different colour to the one you had before. However, it's OK for small children to choose the same colour again.