

## Keeping Brain Fit At Home

*Our Groups: Pick and Mix, The Giggly Group, Young at Hearts, The Urchins, Passmore Pals, Happy People, Us Lot and Freya's Friends.*

This week our topic is: **CHILDHOOD**



**“That boundless freedom of childhood is so wonderful”  
– Mary, Crown Princess of Denmark**

Here at Memory Matters we have been talking about the games we used to enjoy playing when we were children:

**Laura** spent hours doing gymnastics on an old scaffold pole that her Dad had fixed up. She spent most of her childhood upside down and spinning around.

**Emma** used to play in a secret spot called “The Biverwack”, which was located on the moors. She and her friends built rope swings and used to slide down the hill on old sheets of metal that had fallen off the top of barn roofs.

**Annie** used to love playing a Hide and Seek game called “Kick the Can”. Lots of children joined in and the games used to go on until it was nearly dark – it was always a race to get back home in time!

- What were some of your favourite childhood games?
- What games do you think would be good to play by the river or in the woods?
- Did you play out on your own or in a large gang?

**An excerpt from “Playing Out” by Gill Johnson and Marilyn McGregor**

I remember all those games I played  
 In endless summer childhood days:  
 Jacks, marbles, skittles, hula-hoops,  
 Dolls, prams, cat’s cradles, string in loops.

Chalking grids with a stone in the street,  
 We’d hopscotch, hop, hop, hopping on our feet.  
 Chanting clapping songs, my friend and me  
 About a sailor who went to sea, sea, sea.

There was a rope swing by the river,  
 Jumping across made us shiver,  
 We’d run, catch, tightly cling and fly,  
 Whooping, screaming, lifting our feet high.

Cowboys and Indians, twig bow in hand,  
 Planning manoeuvres, writing in sand,  
 Stretching, scratching, high into trees,  
 Splintered branches, dirty hands and knees.

- Which of the games mentioned in the poem do you think children still enjoy playing today?
- Tell us about some of your favourite toys, would you include any of these?

**Dinky Cars    Dolls    Train Sets    Scalextric Racing Cars    Rocking Horse**

- Ladybird books were very popular telling classic fairy stories and well-loved tales: Clarinda really enjoyed reading the story about “The Elves and the Shoemaker”.
- If you enjoyed reading as a child, which books or comics would keep you spellbound?

**Treasure Island                      The Famous Five                      The Beano                      Black Beauty**

A trip to the sweet shop was always a treat, the shelves were lined with jars full of Jelly Babies, Pear Drops, Chocolate Limes and Sherbet Lemons to name but a few!

- We wonder which sweets or bars of chocolate you would be tempted to spend your pocket money on?
- When would you be allowed to eat sweets - were they a special treat?

## Things parents used to say to their children - do any of these sound familiar?!

- Don't sit too close to the TV or you'll get square eyes
- If you can't finish your dinner, you're too full for dessert
- It'll all end in tears
- If the wind changes your face will stay like that! (to a child pulling faces)
- You must have been born in a barn (if you forgot to shut a door)

## Why don't elephants like penguins?

- They can't get the paper off with their trunks!

## Photo Archive:

