

French Cricket

A great way to practice batting and catching skills, French cricket is a quick game that also encourages team building and strategising.

Level: Year 3 and above

Equipment: 1 cricket bat per group, 1 tennis ball

Purpose: French Cricket is a simple dodging and striking game that is perfect for introducing striking to your students as well as for helping students develop an understanding of strategy.

Formation:

Students make a circle with one in the middle (to ensure maximum engagement have a number of small groups playing).

Middle player has a cricket bat.

Outer circle players have a tennis ball.

Directions to play the game:

- Players in the outer circle take turns throwing the ball at the player in the middle (aiming below the knee)
- Using the bat to shield their legs, the batter attempts to strike the ball away
- The batter is 'out' when they are either hit below the knee or another player has caught a ball that they've hit
- Whoever gets them out, gets to be batsman in the next round

Variations:

- Batters can use a variety of bats such as tennis, softball or padder bat.
- Players could throw more than one ball at a time
- Middle player has no bat and tries to avoid the thrown ball
- Players throw larger balls

Modifications to be able to use game with younger students:

- Use large soft balls
- Strike with the hand rather than an implement
- Strike with the foot rather than an implement
- Roll the ball rather than throw

Links to fundamental movement skills:

Manipulation skills

- Striking with an implement
- Throwing
- Catching
- Striking with the hand
- Striking with the foot

Locomotor skills

- Dodging
- Jumping

Stability Skills

- Balance
- Turning and pivoting

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