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Assignment C

The game Bad Egg is a ball game for a large group of children. It is traditionally played in Britain and other locations by school children on a playground or other such large area. The game involves running and shouting and would thus be most enjoyed by young children. There is some skill involved in the throwing of the ball and so the children cannot be too young. It would be best if the children were between the ages of 6 and 10 years old.

The game must be played in a large open area, preferably flat, with few or no obstacles or obstructions. The children will be running around, so they will likely become excited. This game would be best played outside on pavement or smooth grass.

The only needed equipment would be a tennis ball or other similar ball. For definitions, the "Bad Egg" is the player whom is the one who throws the ball and is the center of play at the moment. The "Runner" is the person whose item was picked.

Play begins with one of the children being chosen to be the first Bad Egg. The children must spread themselves out and the Bad Egg must stand at the edge of the group with his or her back turned away from the rest of the children. The Bad Egg then selects a category of things. This category must be something which children may be able to easily select an item from. Examples include colors, movies, or foods. The players other than the Bad Egg must then take turns shouting out one item from that category. Once all the players have done this, the Bad Egg selects one of the answers. The Bad Egg then shouts it out while throwing the ball over his or her shoulder.

The player whose answer was shouted by the Bad Egg then becomes the "Runner" and must retrieve the ball. All other players, excluding the current Bad Egg then run around trying

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to get as far away from the Runner as possible. Once the Runner obtains the ball he or she must shout "STOP" and the other player must all stop wherever they are. All players besides the Runner then spread their legs apart. The Runner must then attempt to roll or throw the ball through the legs of another player. If he or she is successful, then the player who had the ball pass between his or her legs becomes the new Bad Egg. If the Runner was unsuccessful then he or she becomes the new Bad Egg and play continues. Players may either move back into a smaller group or stay where they are, except for the Bad Egg, who needs to be at the edge. This should be determined before play begins.

There seems to be no way to actually win this game, and play will continue until the children get bored or are unable to continue. In this way it is similar to tag or duck duck goose. Possible boundary rules could be making it so that no players are allowed to rotate once "STOP" has been called by the Runner. If players try to rotate while spreading their legs, then they could make it virtually impossible to have the ball roll under their legs.

The biggest flaw in this game is one that is present in many games. People who are unpopular may never be chosen to be the runner or have the ball rolled under them and so will not get to participate in the "fun" parts. The game has no end and very little substance, though this would not be a problem for children.

An effective strategy if one wanted to avoid becoming the bad egg would be to try to run away from where the ball was thrown by the Bad Egg, as this would put the maximum amount of distance between yourself and the Runner. A strategy for the Runner would be to

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aim the ball towards a large group of children, so if the ball does not pass between the legs of the intended target, it still may go through another's.

Though the players are trying to avoid becoming the Bad Egg, if they achieve this they will not get to actually participate in anything other than running. It is because of this that this game really has no way of losing, because even if you get selected as Bad Egg it will likely only last one round and it will provide a change in pace for the game. In this way it is good for children because no one will be upset at losing. The Bad Egg, though seeming to be the least desirable position, is actually a very desirable position. This is where the meaningful play comes from.

The selection of a category and the subsequent selections of items from that category will also provide some amusement for children. The items selected might be humorous or entertaining and so the players will derive more enjoyment. This game also uses a lot of energy, and so can be useful for tiring out children.

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Source:

Technically speaking, this game could be considered common knowledge, at least in foreign countries. Therefore, it would not be plagiarism to use it without a reference. It can be found on many sites on the internet. Here is where I first discovered it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Egg