

Hit the Stick

All about your first street game

About Hit the Stick

This is a wonderful game that everyone can enjoy. It can be played with children as young as 5 years old. Neither speed, strength nor agility matter here; careful aim and a light touch are the important skills.

Game Essentials

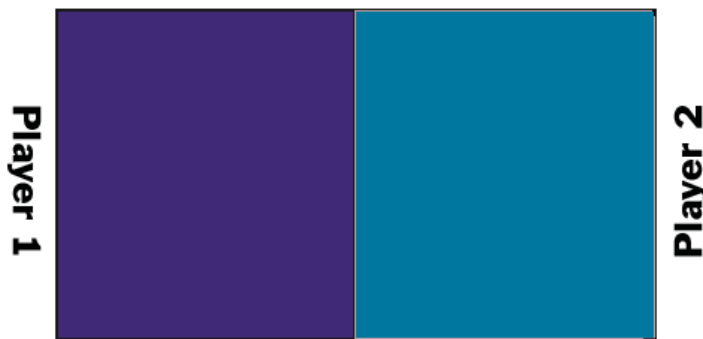
Players: 2

Materials needed:

- Bouncing rubber ball (spaldeen is ideal)
- Level sidewalk with 5 adjacent, consistently sized large squares (or a similar setup drawn in chalk)

Time to play: 30-60 minutes (depends on innings played)

The Hit the Stick field



Sidewalk boxes

The Hit the Stick field

A sidewalk or a courtyard with 2 even boxes marked off.

How to play

Players stand at either end of two concrete squares with a coin or stick placed directly in the center seam. The object is to hit the coin or stick with the ball and, even better, to make it flip over. Each hit brings one point; each flip is worth two. Play is to eleven or twenty-one (or any point total you choose). Players take turns throwing the ball at the coin/stick. Players must keep their feet behind the line of the box they stand in front of.

Simple physics add an interesting twist to this game. Often when the target is hit, it will move slightly, or sometimes jump

towards the other player. This presents the player closer to the target a real advantage because s/he can then bend in and softly drop the ball on it. A soft touch tends to keep the stick from jumping away, thereby allowing the player closer to the target to easily rack up points. Accordingly, the other player gets a longer, more difficult throw. Really good players can manipulate where the coin/stick goes by imparting spin on the ball, though this strategy can backfire... physics can be fickle.

Hit the coin is probably the most common game, because everyone has some change, but it's more of a kick to see the stick flip up and turn in the air than checking to see if the penny or nickel is still heads or tails. Some people play with the winner (or loser) buying ice cream.

The last word

This is an incredibly simple but fun game. It can be played almost anywhere and is ideally suited for summer afternoons and evenings where a bunch of kids are hanging out and want a bit of diversion, or it's just too hot to do much else. It is a relaxed game, well suited for young and old, children, adults, and seniors. It's also a good introduction for little kids to game rules in general, simple math, and to throwing/catching a ball.

This Streetplay Rule Sheet is available at: <http://www.streetplay.com/rulesheets/hitthestick/>