Hide and Seek: Not as Good as It Looks Like

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Having just finished playing hide and seek with my little sister, I have to confess that I loathe that stupid game. Every child's ideal plan was to meet their friends and spend endless hours trying to find each other, but, as far as I'm concerned, it was a pain in the neck. Seeing everybody laughing and excited about the idea made me think that I must be spiritless but, over the years, I analyzed why I perceived it that way. Just as the game consists of three steps: counting, hiding and seeking, I detected three main reasons to explain why it is the most overrated game in the world.

First of all, trying to find a place to hide in just ten seconds is stressful, to say the least , and once you have found it you have to sit around doing nothing besides trying to stay quiet until someone finds you. And then comes the inevitable disappointment when you are discovered, especially if you happen to be the first one, which means that your hiding place was easy-peasy. In my case, I always tried to be the seeker though it is just as boring but, at least, it is more dynamic than being still for eternal minutes. Let us consider the climate now: imagine sitting on the hot ground with the sun scorching your back plus the fact that you are already anxious: it results in sweat sliding down your body like a waterfall. Regarding this game from a general perspective, every detail of it is negative. But this is just the beginning of my analysis.

As to the place, I need to refute the idea that "hide and seek can be played everywhere". Lucky you if you live in a house with a lot of rooms and a big garden, but there are lots of children who live in a flat, and I was one of them. Playing this game in a small place, eventually, becomes tedious and monotonous: you just have a few places in which to hide, so the hiding place of every competitor is easy to guess. Yet, playing it where there are plenty of places in which to hide is not as fun as it sounds, either. Being the seeker, you have to search for your friends at a slow pace and be very watchful because you run the risk of being scared out of your wits by some smart guy. This explains why nervousness and stress play an important role in this game: your shoulders and feet are extremely tense due to the extreme attention needed. As you can see, there is no fun in this part of the game either.

And finally, there is betrayal in hide-and- seek. I know that this is a children's game, but their hands do not shake when it comes to revealing their friend's hiding place. They are all supposed to be friends, not enemies, but many are tempted to do that because of the effect this game produces. Everyone wants to win and therefore, the end justifies the means even if that involves confessing where your friend is. Although at that age anger lasts ten minutes at the most, the feeling of knowing what your partner has done is anything but pleasant. This, obviously, breeds revenge, so it becomes a never-ending story and the fun of the game can be turned into a disagreeable argument (sometimes with physical violence included).

In the end, some parents end up forbidding their children to play with others because they know how they are going to react.

Apart from all these reasons, we cannot blame a child for enjoying this game. I know the mystery of finding somebody hiding in a secret place is the most exhilarating thing in the world but, as I grew up I realized that everything that happens in hide-and-seek is not always that edifying. I am aware that they are not going to give up playing this seemingly innocent game, but we ought to opt for more educational activities. Call me exaggerated, but we have to make some changes in this simple game because its values are not the most appropriate ones for a child and the emotions involved are not healthy for such a young age. I may sound like spoilsport, but there surely are some parents out there who understand how I feel.