

[whistle]

Children: *Lingokids*.

Speaker 1: Hurry. Let's find our seats. The game's about to start.

Speaker 2: There are so many people.

Speaker 1: Yes. Soccer is one of the most popular sports around the world. In fact, the soccer World Cup is one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

Speaker 2: Wow.

Speaker 1: Are you all excited to watch your first soccer match?

Speaker 2: Yes.

Speaker 3: Not really.

Speaker 2: Why not, Kawi?

Speaker 3: Because I don't understand it.

Speaker 1: That's okay. We can learn about it today. Welcome to *Storytime by Lingokids*, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us, and the fun of play-learning. Join us today while we celebrate the World Cup of soccer and experience a soccer match. We're just in time. The referee is getting ready to blow the whistle.

Speaker 3: How do you know?

Speaker 1: Look on the big screen to the side of the field, you can see everything that's going on.

Speaker 3: Yay, it's started.

Speaker 2: Ooh, great pass.

Speaker 3: It's boring.

Speaker 1: Why do you think it's boring, Kawi?

Speaker 3: It's so confusing. It would be easier if they carried the ball instead of kicking it.

Speaker 2: That's how it's played, Kawi. You can only use your feet. No hands.

Speaker 1: In fact, in many countries soccer is called football because it's played with your feet.

Speaker 2: Ooh. That was a close one.

Speaker 3: Did they almost get a home run?

Speaker 2: There are no home runs, that's baseball.

Speaker 3: Oh. I still don't get the point. How do you score?

Speaker 1: The mission of the game is to score a goal. See how there's a big goal with a net on each side of the field?

Speaker 3: Yes.

Speaker 1: Each team has to try to kick the ball into the other team's goal. It takes a lot of skill and strategy.

Speaker 3: What's a tragedy?

Speaker 1: Not a tragedy, strategy. Strategy is when you play with a plan.

Speaker 3: What kind of plan?

Speaker 1: Well, do you notice anything about those players near their own goal?

Speaker 3: They're just standing around being lazy.

Speaker 1: They're not lazy, Kawi. Those players that stand near their goal are called defenders. Can you guess why they're called that?

[music]

Speaker 3: Because they have to defend their goal.

Speaker 1: That's right. Those players are waiting closer to the goal in case the other team attacks and tries to score. Every player has a position with an important role to play.

Speaker 3: I see.

Speaker 1: Also, do you see how they pass the ball to each other?

Speaker 3: Yes.

Speaker 1: Part of the strategy is to pass the ball until there's an opportunity to score. Soccer is all about teamwork.

Speaker 2: Wow. That was so close.

Speaker 3: No.

Speaker 1: Why are you booing, Kawi? That was a really great save by the goalkeeper.

Speaker 3: But he grabbed the ball with his hands. That's cheating.

Speaker 1: How?

Speaker 3: I thought you could only use your feet.

Speaker 1: Well, yes. Every other player, except the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper is special. He always stays in front of the goal and can use his hands to block the ball.

Speaker 3: Oh.

Speaker 1: Look at that Forward. He's running towards the goal with the ball.

Speaker 3: What's a forward?

Speaker 1: Forwards are the players that try to score. They're also called strikers because they strike or hit the ball with their feet.

Speaker 3: Oh, okay. He's almost there. Shoot. Goal. Wow, that was a great goal.

Speaker 4: Everyone is so excited.

Speaker 1: That's part of the fun, getting a feel, the excitement of everyone else around you and sharing with everyone else for your team. It's an amazing feeling.

Speaker 3: Yes, I guess it's exciting. [unintelligible 00:04:25]

Speaker 1: Oh, they scored it just in time. That's the end of the first half.

Speaker 3: Oh, I was just getting excited. Is the game finished already?

Speaker 1: No, Kawi. There's one more half of the game to go. This halftime break is the perfect time to stretch our legs or go get a snack. Sometimes they even have a fun halftime show or activity.

Speaker 4: Attention, everyone. It's time for a special dance-off challenge.

Speaker 3: Wow, a dance-off sounds fun.

Speaker 4: If you see yourself on the big screen, do a dance. The best dancer gets to play a special mini-soccer match against our home team. The Soccer [unintelligible 00:05:08]

Speaker 3: I want to play a game.

Speaker 2: *Lingokids* listeners you can join in with your dance moves too when you hear the music.

Speaker 3: Look at that little boy. Those are some great dance moves.

Speaker 4: Look, that couple is doing the Disco. How fun. [laughs]

Speaker 1: Look, everyone that's [unintelligible 00:05:33] the screen, do your best dance moves. [crosstalk]

Speaker 4: Great job everyone. The winner is drum roll, please. The wonderful group of dancers there with the little bird cow, cat, and panda bear. Great dance moves.

[applause]

Speaker 2: That's us. We won.

Speaker 1: Great job *Lingokids* listeners, we've had a great time at the soccer match and we've definitely learned a lot about soccer. Tune into our next episode to find out how the *Lingokids* team does in their very first soccer match. If you are ready for interactive play learning time, explore our *Lingokids* app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages two and older learn and develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of play learning. See you in our next episode.

[00:06:50] [END OF AUDIO]