

# Long & Thin or Short & Fat Year 5 – 6

(A learning task to check understanding and progress)

## Learning Task

### What is the Task being taught

The 'Long and thin or short and fat' task involves children using tennis shots to strike a ball accurately at targets, moving their opponent around the court in order to create spaces in which to attack. The children select their own court area: either long and thin with targets at the front and back or short and fat with targets at the sides. They then rally in pairs, trying to hit the targets on their opponent's side of the court as many times as possible. They devise a scoring system and evaluate and adapt it as necessary. As they gain experience, they start to play more competitively, hitting the ball away from their opponent to try to prevent them scoring.

- **Make sure all equipment is appropriate and sized correctly for the pupils**



**To help the children evaluate and improve their performance, ask them:**

- What shape court did you choose? Why? How does the shape of the court affect your shots?
- What tactics did you use to try to stop your opponent scoring?
- What is your opponent particularly good at? How did this affect the way you played?
- What was good about your performance?
- What do you need to spend more time practising?

How are the Children doing? Look out for them:

Make the task easier or harder by changing one or more STEP:  
Space Task Equipment People



Using forehand, backhand and overhead shots



Selecting appropriate shots to hit the targets



Consistently getting the ball near the targets



Start to select & apply tactics & strategies appropriately



Creating & agreeing an appropriate scoring system



Playing the ball away from an opponent



Use & realise the need for simple practices to improve performance