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## **Songs, Chants and Activities: Forming a Circle**

### **Can You Walk, When My Drum Says Walk (by Pamela Wade)**

Transition/ follow the leader/ form a circle/ chant

Can you walk, walk, walk, when my drum says "walk".

When my drum says "stop" you stop. **Suggestions** \*run/skip/slide/hop

### **Did You Ever See A Circle (Did You Ever See A Lassie)**

Did you ever see a circle, a circle, a circle.

Did you ever see a circle, point to one now. (circle shape in room)

Did you ever see a circle, a circle, a circle.

Did you ever see a circle, point to one now. (circle shape on your body)

Won't you come and make a circle, a circle, a circle.

Won't you come and make a circle, show me one now.

### **Ring Around The Rosie: Endings**

1. Penny on the water, penny on the sea. Up jumped the little fish, and up jumped me.

2. All do this. (middle person shows a movement and outside circle copies)

3. Cows in the meadow, eating buttercup, ashes, ashes, we all stand up.

4. Open the window, open the door, we all stand up on the count of 4. 1,2,3,4.

5. Hop around the circle, Hop around the circle. Stand still, turn around all sit down.

6. Person in the middle. Ending: all do this – outside circle copies the person in the middle.

### **Circle of Friends : Chant**

Take my hand and follow me.

We'll form a line you will see.

When our line meets at both ends

We will have a circle of friends.

## **Circle of Friends** (Polka) **Movin' Party by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

Put your best foot forward, tap it on the ground.

Put a smile upon your face, and make a happy sound.

Join your hands together, wave them up and down.

Then as friends we'll move this circle 'round and 'round.

CHORUS

We'll make a circle, a circle, a circle with our friends.

Friendship is forever and a circle never ends.

If you're in this circle, you'll be glad at what you've found.

'cause friends go 'round in circles, and they make this happy sound.

Clap your hands just one time, and pat them on your knees.

Then put a smile upon your face, and giggle if you please.

Join your hands together, wave them up and down.

Then as friends we'll move this circle 'round and 'round.

CHORUS

Make a half a circle, now make the other half.

Put a smile upon your face, let's have a little laugh.

Join your hands together, wave them up and down.

Then as friends we'll move this circle 'round and 'round.

## **Che Che Koo-lay/** traditional from Ghana **Movin' Party by Colleen & Uncle Squaty** **Song, Chant, Call & Response, Circle Game**

**Che Che Kooley means** " if your out in the ocean on your boat, return quickly, rain is coming".

Che che koo-lay. (echo)

Che che koo-fee sa. (echo)

Koo-fee san lan-ga. (echo)

Ka-ta chee lan-ga. (echo)

Koom a day hay (echo)

Koom a day hay. (echo)

Hey. (echo)

**Dance movement means:** I have good thoughts in my head. I have cloths for my shoulders.  
I have food in my belly. I will dance for you.

Chant and echo while dancing. (8 counts per verse or action)

Che che kooley. (hands on your head)

Che che koo-fee sa. (hands on your shoulders)

Koo-fee sa lan-ga. (hands on your waist/ left side, then right)

Ka-ta chee lan-ga. (hand pat your opposite/raised knees/ left knee, then right)

Koom a day hay. (hands touch your opposite/raised toes/ left toe, then right)

Koom a day hay. (hands touch your opposite/raised heels, behind your back  
Left heel, then right)

Hey. (touch elbows to knees / squatting position) During instrumental part,  
you may use the same dance movements as the vocal part.

**Circle Game:** Leader in middle of circle sings song, outside circle repeats song and actions.

Last verse: leader sits on floor, and blinds eyes. Outside circle statue freeze.

Leader gets up and looks for someone who is moving – that person is the new leader in the middle.

**Book-** "The Laughing River" by Elizabeth Haze-Vega...\$16.95/ hard cover

This book has the song and actions for a simple version of Che Che Kooley.

**A Big Ship Sailing** (Traditional Scottish) Line or circle/ scarfs  
**Movin' Party by Colleen & Uncle Squaty**

Verse 1 (sing twice)

There's a big ship sailing on the il-li-al-lay-oh,  
The il-li-al-lay-oh, the il-li-al-lay-oh.  
There's a big ship sailing on the il-li-al-lay-oh,  
Heigh-ho, the il-li-al-lay-oh.

Verse 2 (sing twice)

There's a big ship sailing rockin' on the sea, rockin' on the sea, rockin' on the sea  
There's a big ship sailing rockin' on the sea, Heigh-ho rockin' on the sea.

Verse 3 (sing twice)

There's a big ship sailing back again, back again, back again.  
There's a big ship sailing back again, Heigh-ho, back again.

Verse 4 (sing twice)

There's a big ship sinking to the bottom of the sea, the bottom of the sea,  
The bottom on the sea, Heigh-ho, the bottom of the sea,  
2<sup>nd</sup> time ending: Heigh-ho, the bottom of the sea, Heigh-ho, the bottom of the sea.

**Directions for line/circle game:** Form a line or circle.

**Verse 1:** have children join hands, then put them up in the Air. Have one leader weave in and out, between the children, while everyone continues holding hands and following the leader.

**Verse 2:** continue holding hands and "rock from side to side"

**Verse 3:** do the same actions as verse 1.

**Verse 4:** "wind the bobbin" leader stands in one spot. The end person circles Around the leader (keep holding hands) The circle will continue to get tighter As you circle, when everyone is bunched together, all sink down to the floor.

**Ants** (traditional: When Johnny Comes Marching Home) Counting to 5  
**Rumble To The Bottom by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

Chant: The ants are coming. (4 x's)

The ants go marching one by one, hoorah, hoorah.

The ants go marching one by one, hoorah, hoorah.

The ants go marching one by one, the little one stopped to play his drum.

And they all go marching, round and round,  
down in the ground, up in the drain, and out in the rain.

The ants go marching two by two, 3,4,5.

\*two/ shoe \*three/scratch knee \*four/shut the door \*five/ wave goodbye

**Idea for "colored ants"** substitute "a color" instead of "little one"

The ants go marching one by one, hoorah, hoorah.

The ants go marching one by one, hoorah, hoorah.

The ants go marching one by one, the RED one stopped to play his drum.

Flannel board activity – colored ants / "ant" colored necklace

## **Little Johnny Brown** (Georgia Sea Islands) Blanket Game

### **Movin' Party by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

Little Johnny Brown, lay your blanket down. Little Johnny Brown, lay your blanket down.

Little Johnny Brown, lay your blanket down. Little Johnny Brown, lay your blanket down.

**Part #1** Fold one corner Johnny Brown. Fold another corner Johnny Brown.

Fold another corner Johnny Brown. Fold the last corner Johnny Brown.

**Part #2** Show me a motion Johnny Brown. Show me a motion Johnny Brown.

Show me a motion Johnny Brown. Show me a motion Johnny Brown.

**Part #3** Act like a buzzard Johnny Brown. Act like a buzzard Johnny Brown.

Act like a buzzard Johnny Brown. Act like a buzzard Johnny Brown.

**Part #4** Give it to a neighbor, Johnny Brown, Give it to a neighbor, Johnny Brown,

Give it to a neighbor, Johnny Brown, Give it to a neighbor, Johnny Brown.

### **Directions for Circle Song/ Game:**

Form a circle with the children. Give a blanket to one child - this child will be the first "Johnny Brown". He/she will then go to the middle of the circle.

When the music begins, all children may clap hands in rhythm to the music and sing the song.

**First verse:** Child in the middle folds the corners of the blanket (they way he/she chooses).

**Second verse:** Child in the middle does some form of physical motion, of his/her choice.

Children on outside of circle 'copy' the motion of "Johnny Brown".

**Third verse:** Child in the middle imitates "a buzzard" by flapping arms for wings.

Children on outside of circle 'copy' the motion of "Johnny Brown", once again.

**Fourth verse:** Child in the middle gives the blanket to another child in the circle, and the new "Johnny Brown" steps to the middle of the circle. The game starts over.

**Art Activity :** Have the children draw and color/paint blankets. 11 ½" X 17" paper works great It's a perfect size for a small blanket pattern.

## **Shoo Lie Loo/** (Traditional African-American) circle game/ call response song

### **Movin Pary by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

**#1** Just from the kitchen. Shoo Lie Loo.

With a handful of biscuits. Shoo Lie Loo.

Good friend, \_\_\_\_\_ Shoo Lie Loo.

Fly over yonder. Shoo Lie Loo.

**#2** Go feed the chickens. Shoo Lie Loo

Get a basket full of eggs. Shoo Lie Loo

Good friend, \_\_\_\_\_ Shoo Lie Loo.

Fly over yonger. Shoo Lie Loo.

### **CHORUS**

Shoo Lie Loo (echo) Shoo Lie Loo (echo)  
Loo

Shoo Lie Loo (echo) Shoo Lie Loo (echo)

**#3** Straight to the springhouse. Shoo Lie

To get a bucket full of water. Shoo Lie Loo

Good friend \_\_\_\_\_. Shoo Lie Loo.

Fly over yonder. Shoo Lie Loo.

**# 4** Went down to the woodshed. Shoo Lie Loo.

Got an armful of sticks. Shoo Lie Loo.

Good friend, \_\_\_\_\_ Shoo Lie Loo.

Fly over yonder. Shoo Lie Loo.

**#5** Got off the school bus. Shoo Lie Loo.

With an armful of books. Shoo Lie Loo.

All my friends. Shoo Lie Loo

Fly over yonder. Shoo Lie Loo.

### **Circle game directions;**

Have children sit in a circle. Clap the rhythm pattern of the song. ( Hand/leg)

Caller sings verses. Children always echo with "Shoo Lie Loo".

Child's name that is called, gets up on "fly over yonder" and flaps arms like a bird.

The child can fly inside or outside the circle during the "chorus", then

Back to their seat before the next verse starts.

## **Movin' 'Round The Room** / Chant or sing / circle song

(words by Lynn Malmberg) Song by Colleen and Uncle Squaty

### **"Sing-A-Move-A-Dance" by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

Chant or sing / circle song

Galloping, galloping, galloping, galloping 'round the room.  
Galloping, galloping, galloping, galloping 'round the room.  
Horses and Zebras and donkeys, too.  
Like to gallop just like you.  
Galloping, galloping, galloping, galloping 'round the room. Freeze. Listen.

Hopping, hopping, hopping, hopping 'round the room.  
Hopping, hopping, hopping, hopping 'round the room.  
Bunny's and frogs and kangaroos.  
Hop around in fields and zoos.  
Hopping, hopping, hopping, hopping 'round the room. Freeze. Listen.

Splish-Splash, Splish-Splash.  
Swimming, swimming, swimming, swimming 'round the room.  
Swimming, swimming, swimming, swimming 'round the room.  
A fish in the water is where he should be.  
Dolphins and whales live in the sea.  
Swimming, swimming, swimming, swimming 'round the room. Freeze. Listen.

Now let's get on our hands and knees and we'll go...  
Creeping, creeping, creeping, creeping 'round the room.  
Creeping, creeping, creeping, creeping 'round the room.  
Turtles and snails move awfully slow.  
They carry their homes where ever they go.  
Creeping, creeping, creeping, creeping 'round the room. Freeze. Listen.

Wiggling, wiggling, wiggling, wiggling 'round the room.  
Wiggling, wiggling, wiggling, wiggling 'round the room.  
Worms and caterpillars crawl on the ground.  
You can't hear them, they don't make a sound.  
Wiggling, wiggling, wiggling, wiggling 'round the room Freeze. Listen.

Sitting, sitting, sitting, sitting on the floor.  
Sitting, sitting, sitting, sitting on the floor.  
Now we're finished moving around.  
So we're sitting on the ground.  
Sitting, sitting, sitting, sitting on the floor.

## **Move-a-roni** / movement/ circle song

### **Movin' Party by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

1. All the children went to town, Riding on their ponies, Everyone get off your horse,  
And let's try walk-a-roni.

'Round and 'round and 'round we go. Walk around the circle. 'Round and 'round and 'round we go.  
Walk around the circle.

2. All the children went to town, Riding on their ponies. Let's try something different now. Let's try  
skip-a-roni.

'Round and 'round and 'round we go.

Skip around the circle. 'Round and 'round and 'round we go. Skip around the circle.

3. All the children went to town. Riding on their ponies. Someone said, "Go faster now".

Let's try run-a-roni. 'Round and 'round and 'round we go. Run around the circle.

'Round and 'round and 'round we go. Run around the circle.

4. All the children went to town, Riding on their ponies. Let's go a little slower now, Let's try slide-a-  
roni.

'Round and 'round and 'round we go. Slide around the circle, 'Round and 'round and 'round we go.  
Slide around the circle.

5. All The children went to town, Riding on their ponies. Everyone get off your horse, Go back to  
walk-a-roni.

'Round and 'round and 'round we go. Walk around the circle. Now everyone stand in your place,  
and sit down in the circle.

**Directions for circle movement song:** Form a circle with the children.

When the music begins, have the children pretend to ride their ponies in the circle.

At the end of each verse a different movement is suggested. Upon singing each different chorus,  
the children will do each suggested movement (walk, skip, run, slide, walk and finally sit).

After each chorus, the new verse begins, that suggests the new movement.

Have the children ride their ponies until the next movement is called.

This song is set up for a "sit down" ending. Great for transitions!!

## **Rumble To The Bottom** (traditional Puerto Rican)

Circle game/stand in place/ parachute

### **Rumble To The Bottom by Colleen and Uncle Squaty**

#1. Oh, we're going to the circus, we're going to the fair.

To see the seniorita, with flowers in her hair.

**CHORUS:** Oh, shake it baby, shake it. Shake it if you can. Shake it like a milkshake, and do the  
best you can.

Oh, rumble to the bottom, rumble to the top. Turn around and turn around until it makes you  
stop.

#2 Senior, dancing in his chair

#3 Elephants, with their trunks up in the air.

Circle Song Directions: form a circle, Leader in the middle. Outside circle joins

Hands – all sing together.

Words "Rumble to the Bottom" everyone sinks down.

Words "Rumble to the Top" Leader in middle rises up, outside circle stays down.

Words "Turn around, and turn around until it makes you stop" Leader blinds eyes

While turning around pointing at the outside circle.

Words "Until it makes you stop" Leader stops and points to "New Leader"

That person comes in the circle middle, and repeat song.

## **Rumble to The Bottom – other versions**

### **We're Going To The Country** new words by Colleen & Uncle Squaty **Rumble To The Bottom by Colleen & Uncle Squaty**

Oh, We're going to the country, we're going to the farm,  
to see all the animals that live in the barn.

CHORUS: Oh, shake it baby, shake it. Shake it if you can. Shake it like a milkshake, and do the best you can.

Oh, rumble to the bottom, rumble to the top. Turn around and turn around until it makes you stop.

### **Rumble Houla** new words by Colleen & Uncle Squaty **Rumble To The Bottom by Colleen & Uncle Squaty**

We're going to the ocean, we're going to the sea, to see the birds and fishes,  
Swimming and flying free.

CHORUS: Oh, shake it baby, shake it. Shake it if you can. Shake it like a milkshake, and do the best you can.

Oh, rumble to the bottom, rumble to the top. Turn around and turn around until it makes you stop.

### **Rumble To The Bottom**: (piggy back song from our teacher friends in Iowa)

Oh, we're going to our day care, we're going to our school  
To see all our teachers, who are really, really, cool.

**Book**: "Rumble In The Jungle" Scholastic Publication

### **The Rain Game** (body rhythms)

1. Make a circle. Leader starts body rhythm: rubbing hands together.  
Everyone in the circle copies the action.
2. Leader starts a new sound: snapping fingers together.  
Everyone in the circle copies the action.
3. Leader starts a new sound: hands slapping thighs.  
Everyone in the circle copies the action.
4. Leader starts last sound: hands slapping thighs and stomp feet.
5. End the Rainstorm: reverse activities, and stop.

Advanced: Make a circle, leader starts the body rhythm, then the Person to the right copies the sound, and then next person, etc .....

\*make a rainstick: fill inside with different items to hear different sound.

## **Numbers in a Circle (5)** / Skip To My Lou

New words by Colleen & Uncle Squaty

**"Shake It Down, Turn Around" by Colleen & Uncle Squaty**

### **Directions for circle dance (5) & (10):**

Give each child a "number necklace" or "number sticker"

When their number is called, they go into the middle of the circle

And do the actions sung in the song. Outside circle can also do the Actions.

1's in the middle, hands up high. 1's in the middle, bye and bye.

1's in the middle, hands up high. Back to the circle, numbers.

2's in the middle, tap your toe. 2's in the middle, watch 'em go.

2's in the middle, tap your toe. Back to the circle, numbers.

3's in the middle, swing and sway. 3's in the middle, do it this way.

3's in the middle, swing and sway. Back to the circle, numbers.

4's in the middle, pat your knees. 4's in the middle, if you please.

4's in the middle, pat your knees. Back to the circle, numbers

5's in the middle, Stamp your feet. 5's in the middle, to the beat.

5's in the middle, Stamp your feet. Back to the circle, numbers

## **Numbers In A Circle (10)** / Skip To My Lou

New words by Colleen & Uncle Squaty

**"Shake It Down, Turn Around" by Colleen & Uncle Squaty**

Come on in 1 and 2's. Come on in, shuffle your shoes

Come on in, shuffle your shoes. Now back to the circle numbers.

Come on in 3's and 4's. Come on in, touch the floor.

Come on in, touch the floor. Now back to the circle numbers.

Come on in 5's and 6. Come on in, pick up sticks.

Come on in, pick up sticks. Now back to the circle numbers.

Come on in 7 and 8's. Come on in, pretend to skate.

Come on in, pretend to skate. Now back to the circle number.

Come on in 9 and 10. Come on in, bring a friend.

Come on in, bring a friend. Numbers in a circle.

## **Dancer In The Middle / circle or line dance**

### **"Movin' Party" by Colleen & Uncle Squaty**

Dancer In The Middle.

I got a number, the number is one.

I got a number, the number is two.

That's me. I'm lookin' at you.

Dancer In The Middle.

Big, round, yellow sun.

I got two eyes, lookin' at you.

I got two eyes, and one and one makes two.

#### **Chorus:**

Jimmy Crack Corn, I don't care, Jimmy Crack Corn, I don't care.

Jimmy Crack Corn, I don't care, now go back to the circle.

#### **Dancer In The Middle**

One nose, two ears, that makes three. If I had one elbow, I could have three knees.

A clock has a face with a voice that ticks. Twelve on the top, on the bottom is six.

That's right!, we need to make the time. To put the numbers together, we're gonna make them rhyme.

#### **Chorus:**

*Dancer In The Middle.*

Straw on the roof, hay on the floor. Three-leaf clover if you're lucky it's four.

Four in the mornin', half-alive. Feet on the floor at a quarter to five.

All right, it's time to go. I'm a little tired, but I'm ready to roll.

#### **Chorus:**

*Dancer In The Middle.*

There's only two things that rhyme with seven, one's heaven, the other's eleven.

Supper's at seven, party's at eight. Shine your shoes, lick your plate!

Oh yeah! Supper's at seven. Party's at eight, don't you be late!

#### **Chorus:**

*Dancer In The Middle.*

I went fishin', feelin' fine. 'Caught a ten-pound fish on a nine-pound line.

'Caught nine more, that made ten. Then I threw 'em all back again.

Uh huh! I wouldn't tell you a lie. Ten, nine-pound fish, in the pan to fry.

#### **Chorus:**

Now we're gonna need another dancer in the middle,

And a, who's a gonna be the next dancer in the middle,

And do you wanna be the next dancer in the middle,

Does anybody wanna be a dancer in the middle. (repeated 3 times)

Directions for circle dance:

Form a circle with the children. Select a child to be the first "dancer in the middle".

This dancer will go to the center of the circle, and do their favorite dance during the first rap (verse). The children forming the circle, will copy the dance or movement of the "dancer in the middle". The children forming the circle may do the dance and/or clap their hands, to the rhythm of the song.

During the chorus "Jimmy Crack Corn" children will clap their hands three times.

On "I Don't Care" children will raise and shake arms high in the air. Upon hearing

"Now Go Back To The Circle", the child in the middle, goes back to his/her place in the circle.

When the phrase "Dancer in the Middle" is next heard, a different child/dancer goes into the middle of the circle and the game starts all over again.

SUGGESTION: the recording has five different verses, so you may want to pre-select five children as the "dancers in the middle".