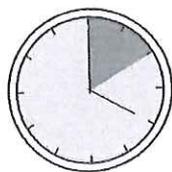




31. The Farmer's in His Den



Time: 10–15 minutes

Age Range: 4–11

Ideal Number of Players: 6+

Equipment Needed: None

How to Play

The players choose a 'farmer' and then form a circle around him holding hands.

They walk in a clockwise direction and chant, 'The farmer's in his den, the farmer's in his den. E, i, e, i, the farmer's in his den'.

This is then repeated with the words, 'The farmer wants a wife, the farmer wants a wife. E, i, e, i, the farmer wants a wife'.

The farmer chooses a wife from the circle of children. The wife joins him in the centre.

The chant continues with the following verses. After each verse, the previously elected child chooses someone from the circle to join the group in the middle.

Verse 3: The wife wants a child.

Verse 4: The child wants a nurse.

Verse 5: The nurse wants a dog.

Verse 6: The dog wants a bone.

The game ends with all players surrounding the child who has been chosen to be the bone. Together they all chant and pat the bone lightly, 'We all pat the bone, we all pat the bone. E, i, e, i, we all pat the bone'.

The bone then becomes the farmer and the game begins again.

Comments

When patting the bone, encourage players to be gentle. Remind players of the rule, 'We are kind and gentle, we don't hurt others'.

