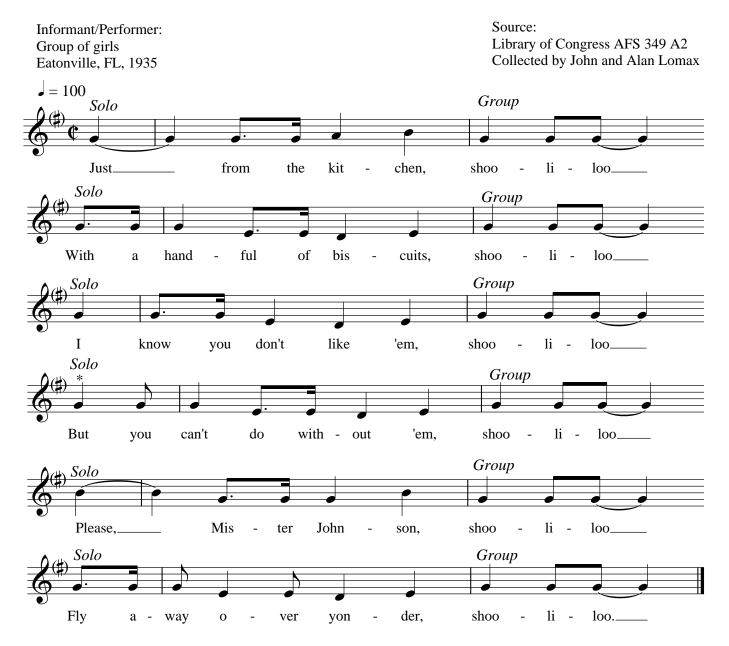
Just from the Kitchen



^{*} Entrance of solo overlaps group response throughout song.

Transcribed by Gail Needleman

Game Directions

Children stand in a circle. Leader (teacher) sings solo lines, children sing response.

When a child is named ("Please Mr. or Miss ______), he or she "flies away"

across the circle and takes a new place. The children may clap on the offbeat when they have learned to do this.

Background Information

"This is just a little skip. We'd do it in the yard or either in the house if it was raining.

But it means this, you know, that the children would sometimes go to the kitchen

and they'd give us some biscuits. At that time, some of the children they didn't have biscuits often.

And when they'd get the biscuits, it was really fun. I think "Shoo li loo" means something like 'I'm really glad!""
-- Bessie Jones

-- Bessie Jones

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Background Information (continued)

Though John Davis maintained that any play taking place in a circle is "ring play", Mrs. Jones insisted on calling "Just from the Kitchen" a "skip," I suspect because it requires no center player. In this play, the lead singer, standing as part of the circle of players, calls out the "real" name of a different child each verse; and the child whose name is sung then skips across the ring with his arms outstretched - "flying away over yonder."

Other kinds of food may be sung about, too; Mrs. Jones gave some of us handfuls of tomatoes, rabbit, meat skins, potatoes, and chitterlings as her imagination dictated. On one occasion she described this as an "after-slavery play": "He's so glad-he's free and got his own bread so he fly away over yonder He's so glad he got freedom food!"

Bessie Jones and Bess Lomax Hawes, Step it Down