

# Toodala

Informant/Performer:  
Mrs. W.W. Goldman  
Poteet, TX, 1940

Source:  
Helen Gates, "Toodala"  
In *Texian Stomping Grounds*  
Ed. J. Frank Dobie, Mody C. Boatright,  
and Harry H. Ransom  
Austin, Tex.: Texas Folk-Lore Society, 1941



Might-y pret-ty mo-tion, too-da-la, too-da-la, too-da-la

Might-y pret-ty mo-tion, too-da-la, too-da-la-la, la-dy.

2. Rock old Soni, Toodala etc...

3. Right back this way...

4. Swing your partner...

For younger children, the song may be used to improvise descriptions of ongoing events, making up words around any chosen theme.

## Game Directions

Circle formation with several couples making up the circle. During the singing of the first stanza the players go in to the center of the circle and back out; on the second stanza they go to the right, on the third stanza to the left, and on the last stanza each boy swings the girl to his right and weaves in and out around the circle, swinging each girl. (This stanza part is similar to winding a May pole.) They keep on singing the song and dancing until each boy gets back to his initial partner.

## Background Information

Toodala parties come in with the robins and roses and watermelons - at all seasons. The people who attend usually range from twelve to twenty years. No refreshments are ever served, and no invitations are sent out. The word gets around that the Russells are having a Toodala party Friday night, and Friday night the Russells' front yard will be filled with young people singing and playing. Sometimes Toodala is played inside the house, but it's usually too crowded, and often in the winter time Toodala is played outside around a big fire...

In comparing Toodala to square dancing, it can be said that they are practically the same thing. The dance steps are fundamentally the same; in square dancing the music was furnished by some fiddlers; in Toodala the players provide their own music. The words to the songs are different, but in Toodala, as in square dancing, the floor or ground makes no difference at all.