

Jolly is the Miller

Informant/Performer:
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Collected by Herbert Halpert

Jol - ly is the mil - ler who tends to the mill
the mill turns a - round with a free good will.
Hand up - on the hop - per and a foot up - on the slab
[v.2:] pole
Eve - ry time the mill turns, [v.2:] grab, boys, grab.
toll, boys, toll.*

*Originally: boy has to kiss girl

Transcribed by Gail Needleman

Game Directions

Formation: circle of partners, hand in hand. (originally: boys in the inside) and one child (boy) as "the miller" in the center.

Game: All sing and march around (representing the mill wheel) until the end of the verse, when children in inside circle step and shose in the outside circle step forward and take a new partner. At the same time, the miller attempts to get a partner for himself. The child without a partner becomes the new miller. In the original game, at the end of the verse, the miller calls out the direction, e.g. "ladies step forward and gents stand still" (or vice versa).

(second verse optional)