

There's a Big Ship Sailing

Informant/Performer:
Clancy children
Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary, Ireland, 1950s

Source:
So Early in the Morning
Tradition Records TLP 1034
Collected by Diane Hamilton

$\text{♩} = 144$

There's a big ship sail - ing on the il - li - al - lay O,
il - li - al - lay O, il - li - al - lay O,
There's a big ship sail - ing on the il - li - al - lay O,
Hi Ho, il - li - al - lay O.

Transcribed by Eleanor G. Locke

2. 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,
Hi, Ho, rockin' on the sea.

3. There's a big ship sailing back again,
Back again, back again,
There's a big ship sailing back again,
Hi, Ho, back again.

Game Directions

Formation: A line of players holding hands. The player on the left end of the line grasps a playground post, or leans with left hand against a wall forming a "space" through which the end player will pass.

As all begin singing, the player at the right end of the line leads off with a quiet walking step toward the left end of the line. All holding hands, follow in a line, passing between the tree or wall and the first player at the left end. When player who led line around has returned to his/her original place and last person has passed through, player who formed original arch (left end player) will be wound up.

The line leads off again and this time passes between player 1 and 2. As the line continues the action, always moving counterclockwise, the players are "wound up" one by one. Continue till all are wound.

To unwind: keep on singing, the player next to the leader lifts his left arm and pulls both these players through, and so on, till all are unwound.