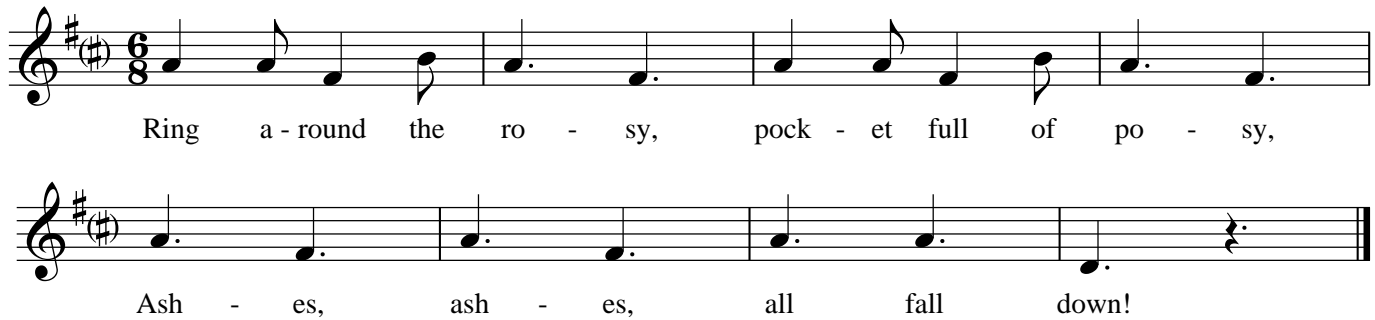


Ring Around the Rosy

Source:
Traditional



Game Directions

Children join hands and dance or skip in a ring. On "down" they tumble down or, alternatively, squat down on their heels.

In one version of the game, one child stands in the middle (she is the "rosy" - French *rosier*, or rose-bush.) When the children squat down, the last child down takes her place.

Note: It has often alleged that this rhyme refers to the Black Plague, but there is no basis for this belief. Examination of older sources shows that the fall was originally a curtsy, part of a dramatic singing game which has been lost. Oral tradition in England and Ireland often includes a second verse providing for the players to get up again, such as:

The cows are in the meadow
Eating buttercups.
Ashes, ashes,
We all jump up!

or

The cows are in the meadow
Eating all the grass.
Ashes, ashes,
Who's up last?

Similar rhymes are found in many European countries.