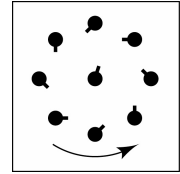


# HASHUAL (THE FOX: Israel)

*A teasing and chasing game for children 5 years up. Unusual rhythm.*

- One child squats in the centre of the circle as the fox.
- The others stand in a circle facing right, ready to walk, hands free.



**INTRODUCTION:** Tune B played once.

Begin when the singing starts. The very first word is “Ha-shu-al!”

**A:** Throughout: Bouncy walking to the right around the circle – keep the beat.

Leader (or everyone) shouts (with the singer in the recording) “Ha-shoo-al!”

All the dancers respond clap-clap-clap! (with the tambourine notes), and keep on walking another 3 steps.

Repeat this, but add a forward scuff to the end (or a fourth step), on the added beat.

**Part A repeats, but with no scuff** – Tune B cuts in and the dancers face centre.

**B:** Dancers advance towards the fox with 4 step-close-steps, teasing the fox with clicking fingers or by wiggling fingers at sides of the head. (4 slow counts)

As the “response” half of this tune begins, the leader claps once loudly on the first beat, and the fox is allowed to get up and chase – the dancers retreat quickly.

Any child caught (**touched, not tackled! See Note 1**) joins the fox in the centre.

**Part B repeats.**

- NB:**
- As soon as Tune B begins to repeat, the fox(es) must squat down again, packed close in the centre, and not move until the clap is heard.
  - When Tune A begins the dance again, the foxes must again squat and wait.
  - As the dance proceeds and more foxes gather in the centre, they must pack in tightly, squatting properly, and not move before time, or the catching is too easy.
  - If all dancers are caught before the music ends, revert to the original one fox.

## NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

1. Obviously this dance-game risks roughness if children do not keep the rules strictly.

They must not chase around the room, nor catch people by grabbing round the legs. On the hard floor that can cause a painful fall and perhaps a broken wrist.

2. The first tune has an unusual metrical pattern: 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 1, 2, 3.

Ha-shu-al clap,clap,clap walk,walk,walk

Same for the repeat phrase, but there is a fourth beat. Scuff the free foot forward on that.

3. If the children are not ready to learn the scuff, just do a fourth step instead. There are much more interesting and vital things for them to pay attention to in this dance-game.

## HISTORY

This game has been developed (I don't know by whom, where) from a 1945 circle dance for all ages by pioneer Israeli choreographer Rivka Sturman. That version (google it) has more footwork and no fox, but could be danced in the dark around a campfire – fun!