



Kopara Kopara Pipinya

Game country of origin: Sri Lanka



"It is a very old traditional Sri Lankan game and nobody knows exactly when it was invented, but it is still carried on from one generation to the next".

"We used to play this game at school, during family get-togethers and in the New Year.

In Sri Lanka the New Year is celebrated in April, after the harvest time, when the sun moves from the house of Pisces to the house of Aries.

On this day, we had special celebrations. In our village the kids got together and played games like Kopara Kopara Pipinya. The song that the kids sing during the game is "Kopara Kopara, if you look back I will hit you with this branch!".

Contributed by: Shyami

Age Group Suitable for: 5+ years

Number of players: 5+

Outdoor

Equipment: small tree branch with leaves

Instructions

1. All players but one sit in a circle with their eyes closed.
2. The child who is the first player stands outside the circle with a small branch in their hand and walks around the circle singing the rhyme: "Kopara Kopara, if you look back I will hit you with this branch". The child touches one of the children sitting in the circle on the back with the branch and leaves.
3. The first child then starts running around the circle while the child who was sitting must quickly stand up and chase the first child to try and catch them.
 - If the first child completes a run around the circle and sits in the spot where the other child was sitting without being caught, they win and the other child must now go around the circle with the branch.
 - If the first child does not make it around the circle without being caught they continue steps 2 and 3 until they sit in another child's seat without being caught.