

Ayin na-ako ede – “We are planting cocoyams” (Children’s play song from South east of Nigeria)

Language: Igbo

This song and its accompanying activities are meant to teach the children the art and value of farming. While singing, the children bend down and make gestures that depict tilling the soil with a hoe. The leader mentions the name of each participating child as the song progresses. This song is usually performed by children between the ages of 5 and 9 (especially girls).

*Ayi na-ako ede
Ede mara mma okuko
Uche na-ako ede
Chioma na-ako ede
Emeka na-ako ede*

*We are planting cocoyams
Cocoyams are good crops to plant
Uche is planting cocoyams
Chioma is planting cocoyams
Emeka is planting cocoyams*

Igbo Text is translated into English by Mr C. Obijiaaku

Mr Chidi Obijiaaku transcribed this song in 2021 for Jive Publishers (an online African Music library). Jive is a non-profit organization which seeks to both preserve and make African music easily accessible to the African continent and beyond. It accepts contributions from all genres of music. This song falls under the category “children’s songs.”

Voice

Ayi Na-ako Ede

"We are planting cocoyams"

Gracefully $\text{d.} = 102$

Doh is C

1 | s : 1 | f : s :—| r : f :—| d : f : d | f : f :—| f : d : d

Voice

4 | f : 1 : f | f : s :—| r : f :—| d : f : d | f : f :—| f : d : d

Voice

8 | f : 1 : 1 | f : s :—| r : f :—| d : f : d | f : f :—| f : d : d

Voice

12 | f :—: s | 1 : 1 :—| f : s :—| r : f :—| d : f : d | f : f :—| f : d : d | f :—:—

Voice

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