

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. Obijiaku

Mr Chidi Obijiaku transcribed this song in 2021 for Jiwe Publishers (an online African Music library). Jiwe 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.

Ayi Na-ako Ede

"We are planting cocoyams"

Igbo children's play song (Nigeria)

Trans. **Chidi Obijaku**

Gracefully ♩. = 102

Doh is C

Voice

s :1 | f :s :-| r :f :-| d :f :d | f :f :-| f :d :d

A__ yi n'a__ ko e - de, e__ de ma-ram - ma o - ku -

Voice

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

ko, a__ yi n'a__ ko e - de, e__ de ma-ram - ma o - ku -

Voice

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

ko, Chio-ma n'a__ ko e - de, e__ de ma-ram - ma o - ku -

Voice

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

ko, E-me-ka n'a__ kp e - de, e__ de ma-ram - ma o - ku - ko.

Jan. 2021