

Banyana ba banyenyane – a Children song from the Batswana people in South Africa.

Language: Setswana

The song translates to

Re banyana ba banyenyane,
Re rutiwa ko sekolong.
Re bala, ngwee, pedi, tharo, nne, tlhano.
Re bala, A, B, C, D, E.
Opa diatla, thiba ka setlhako.
Re rutiwa ko sekolong.
Opa diatla, thiba ka setlhako.
Re rutiwa ko sekolong.

We are little girls,
(we are) taught at school.
We count, one, two, three, four, five.
We read, A, B, C, D, E.
Clap your hands, (and) stamp your feet.
We are taught at school.
Clap your hands, (and) stamp your feet.
We are taught at school.

This song is targeted at children in kindergarten and/or those who are in their 1st grade at school. It is sung to teach children to count basic numbers (one to five) and basic alphabets (A to E).

There are two movements in the course of singing this song: hand clapping and feet stamping.

When the children sing:

- *Opa diatla*, it is followed by one hand clap.
- *Thiba ka setlhako*, it is followed by feet stamping.

This song is appropriate for ages 6 – 8 years.

Setswana/Sesotho Text is translated into English by Mr. Bennett Nkwayi Mulungo

Mr Bennett Nkwayi Mulungo transcribed this song in 2021 for Jiwe Music (an online African Music library). Jiwe Music 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.”

Banyana ba banyenyane

"We are little girls"

$\text{♩} = 92$

Setswana children's song (South Africa)

Trans. **Bernett Nkwayi Mulungo**

Doh is Ab

Voice

Re ba - nya - na ba ba nye-nya - ne re ru - ti - wa ko se - ko-long. Re ba - la

V.

ngwe, pedi, tharo, nne, tlhano. Re ba - la A, B, C, D,

V.

E. O - pa di - a - tla, thi - ba ka setlha - ko. Re ru - ti - wa ko

V.

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