EE YAY YAY
Taiwan (The Republic of China) and others

“Ee Yay Yay” is based on the internationally known decision-making hand game called “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” This version was taught by Sue Hulsether, a Wisconsin dance caller, who learned it from a group of Taiwanese dancers that she met at a festival in Sweden—proof of our small world. People from Korea, Japan, and China have told me they know this music game, also. Marian Rose of Vancouver, B.C., has put it in her Step Lively #3 book (www.marianrose.com, www.FolkStyle.com). Jennifer Hsu of Taiwan says it should be "Nee Waw Way," which means "a doll of mud" in Taiwanese.

Music: It is meant to be sung (Marian says “with great gusto and an edge to the voice”). Hear Chinese-Canadian children in a brief snippet on Marian Rose’s Step Lively #3 CD (www.marianrose.com).

Formation: Several short lines of about 4 to 8 people scattered around the room. Each person places her/his hands on the shoulders in front, or uses a front basket hold with the leader on the left end.

The Ee Yay Yay Music Game: The lines of dancers walk around the room while singing. Two leaders make eye contact and guide their lines toward each other. While the others are still joined, the leaders play RPS, chanting “Ching, chang, chow!” or one of the other names below.* Show R, P, or S on the third beat (“chow!”). The loser joins the end of the winner’s line, and the trains chug around again. The game ends when one line is left or when the teacher decides the game is over.

The basic RPS Game: Two players face and pump their arms two beats (in Europe, it is three), or pound fists twice. On the third beat or pound, they simultaneously show one of three hand signals: the Rock (closed fist with thumb covering top finger), the Paper (fingers and thumb together and extended horizontally with palm facing the floor), or Scissors (hand in same position as Rock but with first two fingers extended and open like the blades of a scissors). The winner is decided by the following:
- Rock wins against Scissors (it can dull or blunt scissors).
- Paper wins against Rock (it can cover rock).
- Scissors wins against Paper (it can cut paper).

*Other names for this game are “Ching Chang Chow” (China/Taiwan), “Janken Pon” (Japan), “Kai Bai Bo” (Korea), “Roshambo” (France), “Schnick Schnack Schnook” (Germany), and many more.

Teaching tip: To practice RPS, try: “Rock, rock, paper! Rock, rock, scissors! Rock, rock, rock, rock, rock, choose!” (from Dr. Rochelle Mann, music professor, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado)

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