

Cobbler Circle

— Christina Assirati

Swinging, swinging, swinging,
Morning bells are ringing,
Sounding bells are sounding,
Monday, Monday morning.

Hold hands, form a circle and slowly walk around.

VERSE

My shoes are too small,
Worn and old—
I need new shoes.
Let's go to the cobbler's shop,
And see what he can do.

*Look at your feet.
Right foot in front tapping the floor.
Left foot in front tapping on the floor.
Open arms sideways, palms facing up.*

SONG

We are walking to the cobbler's shop. (Repeat 3 times)
We are marching . . .
We are crawling . . .
We are skipping . . .
We are tip toeing . . .

*Walk around the circle.
March around the circle.
Crawl around the circle.
Skip around the circle.
Tiptoe around the circle, singing softly.*

We're walk - ing to the cob - bler shop, We're walk - ing to the
cob - bler shop, We're walk - ing to the cob - bler shop.

VERSE

Here we are at the cobbler's shop.
Knock, knock, knock. . .

*Right hand in close fist. Left hand forms a "door."
Right hand "knocking" at left hand.
Then pause while placing right hand behind your right
ear (pretending to listen). Repeat three times.*

VERSE

My name is Christopher Cobbler,
And I make fine shoes.

*You are an important and serious cobbler.
Stand very upright.*

I make long shoes.

*Arms straight out together in front of your body.
Then, open arms (heart height).*

I make short shoes.

*Bring arms almost together, palms facing each other.
Leave a "shoe" distance between them.*

I make tall shoes.

Spread arms apart. Left arm down and right arm up.

I make flat shoes.

*Bring arms almost together, palms facing each other
horizontally a half inch apart.*

My name is Christopher Cobbler,
And I make fine shoes.

VERSE

I make red shoes,
Yellow shoes,
Party shoes,
Outdoor shoes.

*Right foot pointing forward towards the floor.
Left foot pointing forward toward the floor.
Stand on tip toes.
Stamp feet.*

SONG

My dear cobbler look at me,

Right foot forward, hands pointing to shoes.

I need new shoes as you can see.

Left foot forward.

My shoes are far too small,

*Place right foot on left knee and hold right foot with
both hands. The sole of foot facing the ceiling.*

They do not fit at all.

*Place left foot on right knee and hold left foot with
both hands. The sole of foot facing the ceiling.*

My dear child come here to me,

Right foot forward, hands pointing to shoes.

What is your size? Just let me see.

Left foot forward.

I will cut the leather fine and new

*Place right foot on left knee and hold right foot with
both hands. The sole of foot facing the ceiling.*

To make new shoes for you.

*Place left foot on right knee and hold left foot with
both hands. The sole of foot facing the ceiling.*

My dear cob - bler look at me, I need new shoes as you can
see. My shoes are far too small, They do not fit at all.

VERSE

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoes,

Sit down with legs stretched together on the floor in front, toes pointing towards the ceiling, moving back and forth.

Have it done by half past two.

Legs stretched together on the floor, heels touching each other, toes facing up, move feet apart keeping heels together (open and close).

Stitch it up and stitch it down,

Touch your feet (with toes pointing up) with the tip of your fingers touch the side of your feet and move down toward the heels.

Make them the strongest shoes in town.

Still sitting down, bend knees and stamp feet with all your might.

GAME

Cobbler, cobbler make me a shoe.

Have it done by half past two.

Cobbler, cobbler tell me please,

Who has shoes that are just like these?

One player is chosen to be blindfolded and stands in the center of the circle formed by the other players, who are all seated (legs stretched together on the floor, and toes pointing to the ceiling). The seated players recite the verse while the teacher spins the blindfolded player. When verse is finished, blindfolded player chooses a seated player, taps his/her shoes and guesses who it is. Whether the guess is right or wrong, the chosen player now goes to the center and is blindfolded. Repeat game.

VERSE

There once lived a cobbler,

Hold left index finger up

And he was wee,

He lived in a hole

Hands together, fingertips and wrists touching, making a hole between hands.

Of a very big tree.

He had a good neighbor,

Hold right index finger up.

And she was a mouse,

She did his wee washing,

Right hand gently rubs palms of left hand in circular motion.

And tidied his house.

Each morning at seven,

Right hand behind right ear, pretending to listen.

He heard a wee tap,

Right hand in a fist, "knocks" on left palm.

And in came the mouse,

Hold right index finger up. Run left index finger down right index finger (represents the apron). Then, left finger touches tip of right finger (represents the cap).

In her apron and cap.

She lit a small fire,
And she fetched a wee broom,
She swept and she polished
His wee little room.
To take any wages
She always refused,
So the cobbler said “thank you,”
And mended her shoes.

CLOSING VERSE

I dance with the flowers,
I sing with the sun,
My warmth I send
To everyone.

Notes

The verse “My name is Christopher Cobbler” and the game “Cobbler, cobbler, make me a shoe” are based on material found in *You’re Not the Boss of Me!* (WECAN, 2007), pages 230-231. The anonymous verse “Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe” comes from *Spindrift* (third edition, Wynstones Press, 1999), page 51. The verse “There once lived a cobbler” is based on the poem “The King Mouse” by Natalie Joan. The sources of the songs used in this circle are unknown.

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*Hold both index fingers up and cross them alternating three times.
Join fingertips on right hand and “sweep” the left palm gently. Keep left palm flat.*

Hold both index fingers up.

Wiggle right index finger sideways.

Bend left index finger forward.

Left index finger taps bottom of right index finger.

Sitting down in a circle. Hold hands and say the verse in reverence.



Detail from “Stepping Stones” by Betty Jones