

Break the Piñata (A Christmas Circle Dance)

Chorus traditional, verses and dance created by Nancy Stewart

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In Mexico the piñata is an important part of the Christmas celebration for children. It may even be in the shape of a star to represent the Star of Bethlehem. In addition to candy, it is often filled with peanuts, guavas, oranges, jicamas (a sweet root vegetable), sugar cane, and tejocotes (a kind of crab apple). This simple dance is easy for young children to do. Practice each of the motions before playing the song.

Dance: Begin with children standing in a circle. Sing the first 2 verses using the motions as indicated below. During chorus children will hold hands, walk in a circle, then walk into the middle and back out.

Break the Piñata

1. Fill the piñata (sing 3 times)

(pretend to pick up candy and put in piñata)

At Christmas time

Raise the piñata (sing 3 times)

(pretend to pull on rope hand over hand)

At Christmas time

CHORUS :

No quiero oro, ni quiero plata (I don't want silver, I don't want gold)

(hold hands and walk in a circle)

Yo lo que quiero es romper la piñata (All I want to do is break the piñata)

(walk into center of circle and out again, holding hands)

2. Cover up your eyes now (sing 3 times)

(cover eyes)

At Christmas time

Swing hard the stick now (sing 3 times)

(pretend to be holding a stick and swing)

At Christmas time

CHORUS

3. Break the piñata (sing 3 times)

(Clap hands once every time word "break" is sung)

At Christmas time

Gather up the candy (sing 3 times)

(crouch down and pretend to gather candy)

At Christmas time

CHORUS

4. Break the piñata (sing 3 times)

(Clap hands once every time word "break" is sung)

At Christmas time