



# FOLLOW THE LEADER

## The game

At first glance it seems such a simple time-filler, but mimicry is an important part of children's games. Follow the Leader provides young children with the chance to participate and display their talents as mimics. Observation and agility are important parts of the game. The players must copy what they have observed a few moments earlier, or they are out.

Imagination and ingenuity are important qualities of the leader. To ensure a fun game for his or her followers the leader must devise a variety of intricate steps and movements to put them through their paces.

The game may be played almost anywhere, from the playground to the farm. In places where natural obstacles occur, the game takes on new challenges and can often involve the unexpected. Adult

supervision may be required. A good game requires followers sticking with the leader through thick and thin, over rocks, up and down banks, through creeks, over and under fences and around trees.

## Playing the game

Any number of players can join in the game, the more the merrier. The leader is selected. A leader with a sense of humour is an advantage.

The players form a line behind the leader with a space of an arm's length. The leader walks off, then suddenly springs a variety of surprises on the followers. The leader may hop, skip, do cartwheels, squat, walk backwards—anything that may fool unsuspecting followers.

Any person who fails to 'follow the leader' is out of the game. This can lead to a lot of skylarking and laughter. The game recommences after all but one player is left in. That person is the new leader.

