

# Yesh Lanu Taish

(Israel)

This dance, known affectionately as “Yesh” (yaysh) is a traditional children’s musical game dance by Jewish youngsters in Israel and North America. It resembles a basic Virginia Reel type dance, a form enjoyed in many cultures. “Yesh” is a much-loved dance, popular with everyone.

Pronunciation: yaysh lah-noo TIGH-eesh

Music: FSP CD98-1 Band 17; Sanna Longden Video “Favorite Folk Dances of Kids & Teachers  
Traditionally, children sing as they dance, to a guitar or other accompaniment. 4/4 meter

Formation: Partners facing in longways sets of 5 or 6 pairs (like the Virginia Reel). Mixed genders are not necessary.

## Meas

## Pattern

2 meas

### INTRODUCTION.

Ptrs join both hands and use hands to beat time to rhythm, singing: “Yesh, yeah, yesh-yesh-yesh-yesh” (cts 1-2, 3-4, 1, 2, 3, 4). Then all but top cpl (closest to the music) quickly back away from ptr as top cpl begins next movement.

### MUSIC A (verse of song)

1-2 In 8 cts, top cpl holds joined hands out to sides and slides (side-closes) to bottom of set. (Lines 1 and 2 of song).

3-4 In 8 cts, top cpl returns to top of set. (Lines 3 and 4 of song).

### MUSIC B (singing yeh-la-la, la-la-la, etc.)

1-4 Top cpl casts off (turning away from each other) and skips or moves quickly (keep to the beat!) to the bottom, where they meet to form an arch. People in each line follow them by dancing up to the top of the set and casting off, in turn, to the bottom.

Beginning with second cpl, ptrs meet at arch and join hands to go through and up to the top of the set. Original top cpl remains at bottom, so second cpl is now at the top.

Note: Sets may move at different speeds, so some might have to mark time by clapping, dancing in place, etc., until music begins again.

Begin dance again with new top cpl.

### Variations

Traditionally, instead of sliding to the bottom, dancers often use other movements—skipping, jumping, hopping, slithering, strolling, etc. Also traditionally, when doing “Yesh” to unrecorded singing, sometimes one long line is formed instead of shorter sets, and everyone keeps singing, “Yeh-la-la, la-la-la ...” until extended pattern is done.

Song words:

Yesh lanu taish, l'taish yesh zakan

We have a goat and the goat has a beard,

V'lo arbah raglayim, v'gam zanaf katan

and he has four legs, and he has a little tail.

Yeh-la-la, la-la-la, la la-la-la la ....

Original notes © Sanna Longden

Presented by Sanna Longden.