

Drop the Handkerchief

This is a circle tag game.

You need a handkerchief, or a piece of fabric the size of a handkerchief, or a folded piece of paper.

There are at least two variations to this circle tag game. It can be played indoors or outdoors, and the players in the circle can be either standing or seated cross-legged on the floor. If standing, they can join hands if they wish. It works best with at least 8 players, but you don't need an even number.

One Way to Play Drop the Handkerchief

Have all the players make a circle and choose one to be It. Give it a handkerchief. (If you don't have one, a piece of fabric will do.)

It walks around the outside of the circle, quietly drops it behind one of the players in the circle, and keeps on walking, trying to get around the circle before the player discovers the handkerchief behind him or her. If you're one of the other players, don't give it away!

If It gets all the way around the circle without the player noticing the handkerchief behind him or her, that player becomes a "dead fish" that has to stand in the middle of the circle. It gets to drop the handkerchief again.

If the player DOES discover the handkerchief, he or she chases It, trying to catch him or her before It gets back to the empty place in the circle. If he catches It, he gets to take his place in the circle again and It has to drop the handkerchief again. If he doesn't catch It, he has to become It and drop the handkerchief, while the kid who was It takes that place in the circle.

A player who is a "dead fish" can try to get back into the game in one of two ways. He can snatch the handkerchief from behind a circle player before that player notices it, and try to catch It. Or, a circle player can take the handkerchief from behind himself and toss it into the circle behind a dead fish. Then the dead fish can pick it up and chase It.

A Second Way to Play Drop the Handkerchief

A Musical One - "A Tisket, A Tasket"

This is played like the one above except that It sings a song as he or she is going around the circle to drop the handkerchief, and because of the ending of the song, the player behind whom the handkerchief is dropped should know it. That player has to chase It around the circle and try to tag It before It takes the empty place in the circle. The song goes like this:



A tisket, a tasket,
A green and yellow basket,
I wrote a letter to my love
And on my way I dropped it,
I dropped it, I dropped it,
And on my way I dropped it.
Somebody here has picked it up
And put it in your pocket;
It isn't you, it isn't you . .
It's YOU!"

The "It isn't you" can be repeated as many times as It wants until he or she drops the handkerchief. On the words, "It's YOU!" It drops the handkerchief behind a player and keeps on running. That player picks it up and runs around the circle in the other direction, trying to get to the empty place in the circle before It does. The one who gets there first gets to keep that place and the other one become It for the next game.