

# SHAWI HILHA TALÓWA

(tune: Choctaw Raccoon Dance Chant)

**Cultural Significance:** *The Shawi is respected among Choctaw warriors for its fierce nature with which it fights when cornered. The Raccoon dance imitates the motions of two raccoons at play in the forest.*

**Language Enhancement Goal:** *teaches directional terms and builds listening skills.*

## Shawi HilhaTalówa

Sho-da-da diam, Sho-da-da diam, Sho-da-da diam,  
Sho da- diam.

Sho-da-da diam, Sho-da-da diam, Sho-da- diam

Ishtaḷhik iyah, Ishtaḷhik iyah, Ishtaḷhik iyah,  
Nówat foló--tah.

Nówat folótah, Nówat folótah, Ibbak halá lihoh.

Hafábik iyah, Hafábik iyah, Hafábik iyah  
Ibbak mokof-fi chah.

Nówat folótah, Nówat folótah, Hikiya chah.

Lhiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha,  
Yokáchi hoh.

Lhiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha, Yokáchi hoh.

Lhiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha,  
Yokáchi hoh.

Lhiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha, Yokáchi hoh.

Lhiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha,  
Yokáchi hoh.

Lhiyohlih hicha, Ihiyohlih hicha, Yokáchi hoh

## The Raccoon Dance Song

(1st verse, Sho-da-da-diam chant)

Walk (go) to the right, go to the right, go to the right.  
Walk in a circle.

Walk (go) to the right, go to the right, holding hands.

Walk (go) to the left, go to the left, go to the left  
Let go of hands.

Walk in a circle. Walk in a circle. Stop/Stand .

Chase it ( the raccoon) and, Chase it and, Chase it and  
Catch it (tag the raccoon).

Chase it ( the raccoon) and, Chase it and Catch it (tag the  
raccoon).

Chase it ( the raccoon) and, Chase it and, Chase it and  
Catch it (tag the raccoon).

Chase it ( the raccoon) and, Chase it and Catch it (tag the  
raccoon).

Chase it ( the raccoon) and, Chase it and, Chase it and  
Catch it (tag the raccoon).

Chase it ( the raccoon) and, Chase it and Catch it (tag the  
raccoon).

### DIRECTIONS:

(singing the "sho-da-da-diam" chant,  
children form a circle, with boys going  
first and girls following.)

Do as the song says. See English  
translation

(When song returns back to top verse,  
boy & girl go back to their original  
spot.

Then they both walk to the opposite  
side of the circle, stands in the space  
between the boys & girls in the circle.  
Actions starts all over again.)

Choctaw	English
Ishtaḷhik	Right
Iyah	Go
Nówah	Walk
Folótah	Turn around
Ibbak	Hands
Halallih	Hold
Hafábik	Left
Mokóffih	Let go
Hikíyah	Stand
Lhiyohlih	Chase
Yokáchi	Catch it



### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

This can be used as part of a Choctaw dances unit, or Animal unit.

This can be taught to be performed at the annual Spring Festival.

Pokkólih



From the "Okchalichi" Talówa, accompanying Booklet

CHAHTA ANNŌPA IK HAPĪ KANÍYOH KIYAH

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