



# Tatanka, Tatanka



**Physical activity/physical literacy links:** Developing movement skills (running, dodging); developing confidence; developing competence; developing social skills (cooperation); developing body control and spatial awareness.

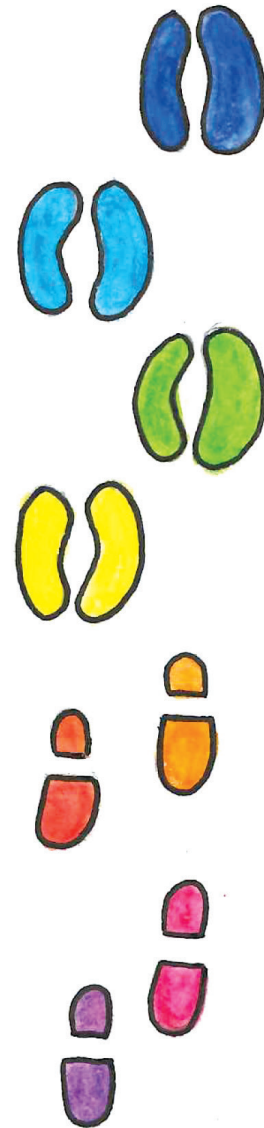
**Language/literacy links:** Playing with the sounds of the language (e.g. rhythm, chanting)

**Equipment:** None

**Where:** Indoors or outdoors

## Storytime

- ❖ Tatanka is the biggest of the buffalos and the leader of the herd. The buffalo was an important source of food and materials to the First Nation/tribe providing everything from meat, tallow, sinew for sewing, bones for tools and hide for blankets, clothing and their tipi covering. The entire tribe would be involved in rounding up and / herding the buffalo into the buffalo pound, or in driving them over the buffalo jump. In this game, younger children learn skills like chasing, catching, running, fleeing and dodging so that when they are old enough they can join in the all-important buffalo hunt.





# Tatanka, Tatanka (continued)

## Let's play

- ❖ Begin by choosing one child to be the "Tatanka". They will stand in the center of the playing area. The other children will line up against a wall, or boundary area.
- ❖ The child in the middle calls out "Tatanka, Tatanka", and the children against the wall will run across the gym floor or open space towards the opposite side. Every person the Tatanka tags becomes part of the buffalo herd and remains in the center of the gym.
- ❖ The children who have made it to the other wall will wait again for the Tatanka to call out "Tatanka, Tatanka" and will run across the space once again, trying to escape being tagged by all the other children who have joined the buffalo herd.
- ❖ This process is continued until only one child is left. They will now become the new Tatanka.

## MOVEMENT SKILL: DODGING



### Cues for your child

- Head up
- Push and turn

### Parts of the skill

- Keep head up, and a low body position
- Plant one foot into the ground
- Quickly change direction to get away from a chaser

### Tips

- Remind children to bend their knees when dodging.

## Other Skills

- Run