

Drop Scotch

This game is played by children in Lesotho and is a variation of the traditional Hop Scotch played in the UK. It is simple enough for children to pick up quite easily, but challenging enough to keep them addicted. Games like these can be taught to highlight the less complicated forms of play found in many parts of Africa. One of the children playing is Julia (in light yellow), her story can be found in the Send a Cow section and she can also be seen on the 'African Gardens' DVD.

How to play:

Mark out a 4X4 square grid on the ground (as below). Each player will need a small, flat tin such as a shoe polish tin. Players can either take turns, or all be on the grid at the same time.

- Each player holds their tin and starts by throwing it into square A.
- They then hop on one leg to square A and as they land they shunt the tin into square B and then C and so on (for beginners a second hop will be necessary).
- If the tin lands on a line then the player needs to start again or let the next person take their turn.
- If the player gets tired, they are allowed to pick up the tin and throw it into the next square once during their round.
- When a player has shunted their tin all the way around the grid without landing on any lines with the tin or their feet – then they have completed a whole Drop Scotch circuit!
- There are three suggested routes: an easy one (#1), an adapted medium route (#2) and a difficult Lesothan one (#3).

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#1
Hard
route

G	F	E	D
H	M	N	C
I	L	O	B
J	K	P	A

#2
Medium
route

J	K	L	D
I	M	E	C
H	F	N	B
G	O	P	A

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3
Hard
route

D	K	M	J
L	C	I	N
E	H	B	O
G	F	P	A

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Drop Scotch being played in Lesotho



Julia, aged 7, plays this game with her friends on the mountainside in Lesotho.



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