NESSIE TO THE BOTTOM or THE BABYSITTER

A 32 bar Strathspey for four couples in a four couple longwise set.

Devised by Gary Lindsey, Flying Ghillies SCD, Dayton, Ohio, February 2005 for David and Kimberly Sharp and their daughters Marilyn and baby Venessa (Nessie).

Recommended Music:
The Cradle Song, from "The Etive Selection of Scottish Country Dancing" by Alastair Hunter and the Lorne Scottish Dance Band.

Strathspey (4 x 32)

1 – 8	All 4 couples (without hands) advance and retire then dance back to back.
9 – 12	1st man and 2nd lady, 3rd man and 4th lady dance full gypsy back to place.
13 – 16	1st lady and 2nd man, 3rd lady and 4th man dance full gypsy back to place.
17 – 24	Couples 1, 2 and 3 dance Progressive Grand Chain (modified)

17 – 18	1st couple turns once round giving right hands while 2nd and 3rd couples change places up and down the set giving right hands.
19 – 20	2nd couple turns once round giving left hands while 1st and 3rd couples change place up and down the set giving left hands.
21 – 22	3rd couple turns once round giving right hands while 1st and 2nd couples change places up and down the set giving right hands.
21 – 24	1st, 2nd and 3rd couples turn once round giving left hands.

Finish in order 3, 2, 1, 4.

25 – 32	All couples set twice starting facing their partner then turning up and down the set so 3rd couple is facing 2nd couple and 1st couple is facing 4th couple. Turn that person with both hands ½ way in two and finish setting to your partner for the last two bars.

Finish in order 2, 3, 4, 1 ready to begin with new top couple.

The purpose of this dance is to allow the Mother (4ᵗʰ lady) to dance while holding the baby. She gives no hands until the end (bars 28 and 29) when, as turning with both hands, she passes the child over to the "babysitter". All setting on bars 30 and 32 is to try to rock the baby back to sleep.