



4-H Briefs

Fun ideas to help members and families explore 4-H projects

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

The Gossip Game

LIFE SKILLS:

Communication- being able to communicate effectively by using voice patterns to share ideas; and exchange thoughts and information, between individuals. Sending and receiving information using speech, writing, and gestures.

LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Following directions, communicating ideas, and interacting with others.

BACKGROUND:

Articulation is how clearly you pronounce your words. If words are not spoken clearly, our intended message is often miscommunicated.

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Group of friends

PROCEDURE:

Have the group members stand in a line. Once the members have assembled, have the person in the front of the line think of a "secret" and tell it to the person directly behind them, without letting the others hear. Then that person will share the "secret" they heard with another person. This process continues until everyone has been told the secret. After the last person has been told, they are to stand up and tell the rest of the group what they heard. Try repeating this game until everyone in the group has had a chance to start the "secret."

DISCOVERY:

1. Was the secret the last person shared with the group the same as the one the first person said?
2. What happens when we don't pronounce our words clearly?
3. What did you learn about articulating your words?
4. Why is pronouncing our words clearly important?

PIECING IT TOGETHER

Think of some time when you didn't speak clearly and someone asked you to repeat what you said. Share your experiences with us on the paper provided.

Does this misunderstanding happen more often when you are speaking with someone on the phone, in a group of people, or speaking one to one? Explain which of these ways it happens most often and why you think it happens in those instances.

TRY THIS:

1. Listen to other people, such as your friends, parents, or brothers and sisters talk. Do they pronounce their words clearly?
2. Next time you are talking to another person, think about whether you are articulating your words and if the other person is receiving the same message you are sending.
3. Keep a journal for 2 or 3 weeks on the unclear verbal messages you hear from other people or that you are asked to repeat. Under each entry, rewrite the message in a clear, easy to understand manner. Read your entries aloud and practice speaking clearly.

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