

## Pass the secret!

**Level:** A1.1, A1.2

**Age:** 4-6

**Organization:** whole class

**Aims:** To listen to and whisper instructions (or words); to show understanding by responding to instructions (or words); to take turns following a prescribed order.

**Language focus:** *In the example:* imperatives, actions

*Alternatives:* any familiar vocabulary, adjectives of feeling (e.g. happy, sad, angry, scared), numbers

**Materials:** *Essential:* none/*Optional:* puppet, flashcards or objects, keys (or other object)

### Procedure

1. Get the children to sit in a circle.
2. If you have a puppet, use it to whisper a secret instruction to one child, e.g. *jump to the door!* Explain and demonstrate that the child should whisper the instruction to the child next to them clockwise, and so on round the circle. If you like, use the puppet to emphasize that the instruction should be kept as secret as possible until it gets to the last child in the circle.
3. The last child then says the instruction out loud and does the action. The puppet and all the other children clap and say e.g. Hurray! or Fantastic! If they do this correctly.
4. Repeat several times, starting with different children and using different instructions.

### Comments and Suggestions

- This game encourages children to listen attentively, speak (whisper) clearly and take turns in an orderly way. The two alternative versions below also develop physical coordination and concentration skills.
- Instead of instructions, the puppet can whisper a secret word to a child in the circle. In this case, stick flashcards of familiar vocabulary items on the board or arrange objects on your desk before the game. Children whisper one of the words, e.g. *Umbrella!* round the circle. The last child says the word and finds the flashcard on the board or object on your desk.
- An alternative version of the game to practise adjectives of feeling is 'Pass the feeling'. In this game, bring your hand down over your face as if it is a mask, give a big smile and say *I'm happy*. Mime passing the 'mask' to the child next to you, who pretends to put it on, makes a sad face

and says *I'm sad*, and so on round the circle, either using just happy/sad or any other adjectives of feeling they know.

- An alternative version of the game to practise counting is 'Pass the keys' (or any other object you have available). In this game, children clap and count rhythmically to five, emphasizing the beat on the count of one, and passing the keys from child to child around the circle every time they say 'one', e.g. One, two, three, four, five. One, two, three, four, five.