

# The Play Book

A Play What You Mean Activity Book



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## Introduction

Children love to play and play is how the Lord intended young children to learn. It is through play that children learn best. The more fun and entertaining something is, the more a child will be willing to learn and the more the child will retain.

This mini-eBook is designed to help parents foster communication skills in young children. Some of these are blasts from the past, games that I played as a child...only I didn't know what they were teaching me! In today's techie society, our children have lost touch with these old fashioned games that taught so much about life. I bring them back to your memory and tell you what communication skills they teach.

Some of the activities in this eBook are things I made up for my own kids that have helped them to grow into effective communicators. Both of my kids have always felt that if something was worth doing, it was worth doing FUN! These are the results of my labor over the years to fulfill that mandate!

And finally, some of these activities are printouts that you can print out as often as you like for your own family's use.

The Lord has a lot to say about communication skills in His Word. Thousands of scriptures refer to the power of the tongue and tell us how important it is that we communicate effectively and in grace with one another. God also tells us what will happen if we don't share in grace.

I pray that this little mini-eBook is a powerfully fun and playful lesson in communication for your family. May the Lord bless you and may you bring glory and honor to Him in all you say and do!

*“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” -Proverbs 25:11 KJV*

*JoJo Tabares*

**Note:** This is a sampling from *The Play Book*. To order the full version, click here:  
<http://artofeloquence.com/store/elementary/TPB>

# Instructions

- Puzzles may be printed on card stock or paper as many times as you like for your own use. Cut out the puzzle pieces and put them together with your child as you explain the meaning of the scripture and give examples of better communication.
- Games require at least two players. Some are more fun with larger numbers.
- Crafts may be printed as many times as you like for your own family's use. Printing instructions are given at the beginning of each craft.
- Each activity, game or craft begins with instructions.
- Each activity, game or craft lists the communication skills that it teaches.

## Communication Instructions from the Lord

*“He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.” -Proverbs 22:11*

*“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” -Isaiah 55:11*

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” -Proverbs 18:21*

*“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” -Philippians 2:11*

Print on heavy card stock -- or -- print and paste onto heavy paper or cardboard.  
Cut puzzle pieces, following guidelines. Assemble and re-assemble as desired.

For more **FUNDamentals of Communcation**, visit [www.artofeloquence.com](http://www.artofeloquence.com)

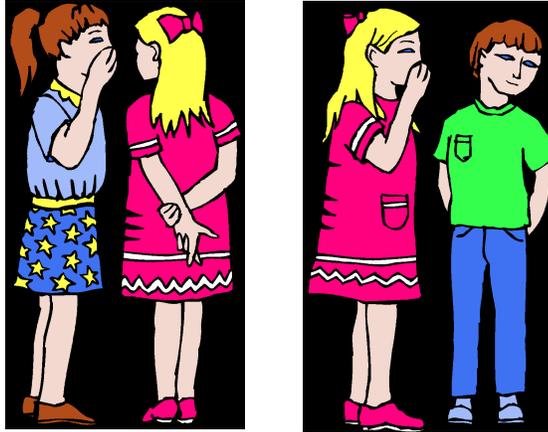


**Never argue with a fool.**



**Those watching may not  
be able to tell the difference!**

# Telephone



Playing Telephone was a great pastime in years gone by. Not only was it fun, but it taught listening skills. Listening is the most important communication skill.

**Players:** The more the merrier!

**Directions:** For the younger children, it is best to start with one or two sentences that tell a story they can follow. As they get older, increase the number of items and random nature of what they are to repeat. Tell it to the first child and have him or her repeat it as best they can to the next child and so on. When you get to the last child, have him repeat it back to the first person and compare the two and see how close they were to each other.

**Examples for Young Children:**

“Mary found a penny on the ground. She saved it in her piggy bank.”

“Johnny has a truck, a car and an airplane, all made of wood.”

**Examples for Older Children:**

“Bill and Danny went to the store to buy eggs, bread, cheese, milk and soap.”

“Bobby and Billy were twins who loved to play tag, eat candy, watch football and go to church.”

**Examples for Even Older Children:**

“Mary and Bill found Casey lying on the floor playing with Steve's blue toy car. While he was playing, Sarah came over to ask if she could borrow Steve's red toy boat to play with in her pool. She also wanted to borrow his green car, red jump rope, brown blocks and his purple pencil.”

“Mr. Boxer made a buck by selling his prize winning cluck. He went to bed with thirty-three, but when he woke 'bout half past three, he saw that someone broke inside and now he had just twenty five!”

# Story Go 'Round



Storytelling is a skill that uses a child's creativity. It's fun! Story Go 'Rounds are even more fun and build a child's storytelling and listening skills.

**Players:** The more the merrier!

**Directions:** Begin a story by sharing just a few sentences and let the kids add to it. Each person must listen to the last person's part and say something that makes sense in the story, adding on to what happened by introducing new characters or situations the characters get into. At the end, you will have a very entertaining story and several very accomplished and proud storytellers.

**Variation 1:** When you have come full circle, you can continue around the circle having the kids continue the story as long as someone can think of more of the story that makes sense. You can keep the story going as many times through the kids as you like.

**Variation 2:** You can play to win by having each person sit out when they cannot think of a story section that makes sense with the story so far.

**Story Starters:**

- Once upon a time, there was a princess...
- Once, there lived a boy who couldn't say no...
- Once upon a time, there was a girl who loved the color purple...
- A long time ago in a town called BusyTown...
- There was once a young man who lived in a peanut butter sandwich and ...

# Communication Matching Game

Below are game cards. Cut them out and help your child match them to the form of communication they talk about.

Letter

Phone

Conversation

Email



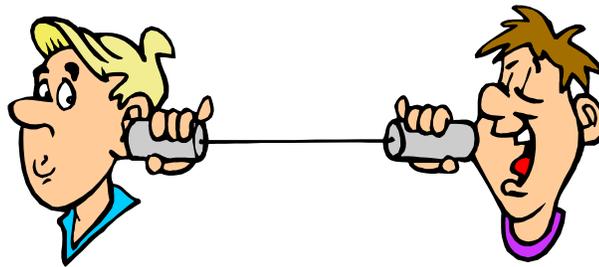
Note



Speech



# Tin Can Telephone



This device is often used in pre-schools and elementary schools to teach children about the concept of a telephone.

## What You Need

1. An adult to help
2. Two metal cans, clean and dry (Be sure that there are no sharp edges!)
3. Ten to 12 feet of a piece of small diameter string, such as kite string or nylon string

## What You Do

1. Make a 'Tin Can Telephone' by punching a small hole in the bottom of each can. Each hole should be just large enough so that the string will go through.
2. From the outside, insert one end of the string into the hole in one can. Tie a couple of knots in the end of the string so that it will not slip back through when pulled tight. Do the same with the other end of the string using the other can.
3. With one person holding each can, stretch the string so that it is tight. One person talking into one can sends vibrations through the tightened string to the other can. The person with their ear to the other can will be able to hear what was said.

## Why it Works

When someone speaks or makes a sound, the air ripples or vibrates. The word 'vibrate' means to move up and down or back and forth rapidly. Our ears collect the sound vibration or sound waves and send them to our brains. Then we hear the sound.

When you pull the string tight and talk into one of the cans of your tin can telephone, the sound vibrates across the taut string to the other can. The person at the other end of the telephone hears your message after his or her ears collect the sound vibrations and send them to the brain to be processed.

## Wikipedia:

A tin can telephone is a type of voice transmitting device made up of two tin cans attached to either end of a string. This device can be made easily with two tin cans, each with the top missing and a hole punched into the other end of the can. A string (about the gauge of a kite string) must be tied between the two cans. When the string is taut, the vibrations made by speaking into the can can travel along the string and be heard at the other end.

# Helpful Resources

## ***JoJo's Articles:***

<http://artofeloquence.com/articles>

On this page of our site you'll find a collection of JoJo's best articles spanning various topics and all age ranges. This page is constantly being updated so check back often!

## ***JoJo's Blog:***

<http://www.ArtofEloquence.com/blog>

Communication FUNdamentals is posted several times a week with articles, tips, Friday Funnies and various other ingredients that allow parents to learn more about communication skills in a fun and creative way. You can subscribe to our RSS feed so you don't miss a post! Its' a great way to gain insight for your young children!

## ***Newsletter:***

<http://artofeloquence.com/newsletter>

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## ***Art of Eloquence Facebook Fan Page:***

<http://www.facebook.com/ArtofEloquence>

Join the fun on Facebook and share communication struggles. Posted each day are helpful resources including: articles, tips, and free gifts and fun videos, audios and other fun illustrations of miscommunication.

## ***Art of Eloquence Catalog of Communication Studies:***

<http://artofeloquence.com/store>

Being an effective communicator will enhance your self-confidence, leadership skills, personal presence, understanding of others, ability to persuade and learning effectiveness. It will also help in various aspects of you personal and professional life. Browse our communication studies covering topics from speech and debate to leadership, defending the faith, politics, business and more!

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