



PERSISTENCE



7-11



10-20



WHISPERING



15-20 min.



The learning objectives of this activity are linked to the development of responsibility, trust and co-operation.

At the same time the children will learn how:

- the content and meaning of information can change when they are passed from “mouth to mouth”;
- to strengthen the ability to concentrate and raise the level of attention.



For this activity you need an article from a newspaper or magazine.

You can select a text according to the interests of the group or for the improvement of knowledge and Information (for example, a topic from the curriculum). This way the children will remember the contents better and you can use this exercise for additional educational benefit.



Step-by-Step:

- 1) Select five to six children to leave the classroom for a few minutes.
- 2) Read the newspaper or magazine article you brought with you to the class. Tell them to listen carefully and pay attention to the information they will get.
- 3) Call one child from those waiting outside back into the classroom and read the same text to the child.

+++The children inside the classroom listen to the article a second time, but should listen only. They should not interrupt or talk about it.+++

- 4) After you finished reading the text call in a second child from outside. Now the child who has just heard the text must explain the content of the text to the other child from outside as good as possible from memory.
- 5) Then call in a third child from outside. The child, who only has heard the information from his or her classmate now tries to describe the content to him/her.

This process is repeated until all the children have heard the information one from another.

- 6) The last child who was waiting outside and has only heard the content once then tells the rest of the class what he or she understood from the story of his or her classmate.
- 7) Read the text to the class once again. Compare with all children the differences between the original text and the story of the last child who came back to classroom.

Ask some reflective questions to build a bridge from the story and the article to real life experience:

1. What has happened?

Let the children describe their thought first and give some advice if needed. E.g. ask them "How did you experience this activity?"; "Have you noticed any differences between the original text and the last story?"; "Why in the information we give orally, there is often a change in the meaning or in the content?"; "What ultimately reaches a wider audience?"

Tell them that when information is passed on orally, relevant details go beyond or are lost or changed. In the end often only parts of an original message will reach a wider audience.

Tell them that this problem appears also when dealing with facts that were published by the news.

The basic idea of this activity came from "Strong children - less violence" Project and was adjusted to the aim and to the target group of AVAL Project by ILI-FAU.

Source:

Strong children - less violence. Sammlung pädagogischer Übungen und Spiele für Kita und Grundschule, url: https://www.vhs-th.de/fileadmin/redaktion/Der_Verband/Downloads/DL-KitaSchule/StrongerChildren2_DE.pdf