



Information Fair Activity Brain Development

Purpose: Broken telephone activity.

This activity focuses on demonstrating facts about brain development

Materials:

- people

Instructions: How to play

As many players as possible line up that they can whisper to their neighbour but not hear any players further away. The player at the beginning of the line whispers (as quietly as possible) a fact about brain development (see below) to the person beside him/her. The neighbor then passes on the message to the next player to the best of his or her ability. The passing continues in this fashion until it reaches the player at the end of the line, who calls out the message he or she received. If the game has been 'successful', the final message will bear little or no resemblance to the original, because of the cumulative effect of mistakes along the line. Deliberately changing the phrase is often considered cheating, but if the starting phrase is poorly chosen, there may be disappointingly little natural change. They will play broken telephone passing a fact on. If the game goes successfully the fact won't be the same at the end. This displays how our brain is constantly being changed as we go through life. One variation known as "operator" allows each listener one chance to ask his or her neighbor for a repetition, as if assistance from the line operator were available by calling that word.

Sticky Facts:

- Adolescent brains are made for new experiences – neural connections in the brain increase through the teen years. Development of the Limbic System (emotional responses, reward and goal motivation) comes before the development of the Frontal Lobe (impulse control and planning).
- Most of your brain cells are formed even before you're born.
- A 3 year olds brain is twice as active as an adult's brain.
- Talking, singing, playing and reading all build the brain.

Source: <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/yf/famsci/fs609w.htm>

Debrief Questions: Talk about the myths of brain development

Myth: The brain's development depends entirely on the genes with which you are born.

Myth: Talking to a baby is not important because he or she can't understand what you are saying.

Myth: Children need special help and specific educational toys to develop their brainpower.

Myth: At birth the brain is fully developed just like one's heart or stomach.