

# BEYOND PASS RIGHT - PASS LEFT

## TOPIC AREA: Communication

**CONCEPT:** One of the most important skills needed for good communication is the skill of listening. This activity will show the importance of listening and how difficult that is when you are not concentrating on what is being said because you are busy doing something else. If you enjoyed the activity "Pass Right - Pass Left" with the Wright Family in my first book, *Activities That Teach*, then you have to give this one a try.

**METHOD:** Classroom activity

**TIME ESTIMATE:** 10 minutes plus discussion time

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 small object per person such as a button or a coin

**ACTIVITY:** (\*You will need at least nine people to make this activity work.) Give each person a small object that they can hold easily. Have everyone line up in three equal rows, with one line being behind the other. (See figure 1) It doesn't matter how long each row is. But each row needs to have the same number of people in it. If you do not have the correct numbers of people to make equal rows, you have a few options. You may have the leftover person read the story, you may join in and participate or you may rotate the extra people in and out of the activity. In my opinion, the last option is the best

choice. The story pauses three times during the reading for rotation. At each rotation, have someone come out of the activity and have your extra people rotate in.

Begin to read the story. Each time the word left, right (or Wright), back or front are used, have each person pass one object to the person who is that direction from them. The key is that you must pass your object and receive an object at the same time. If you are holding more than one object, you only pass one not both. If you do not have a person next to you in the direction that is read, then you hold onto the object that you have. You would still accept an object, but you wouldn't pass one. For example the first row would not be able to pass their object to anyone when the word front is read since there is not a row in front of them but they would accept an object from the person behind them. Likewise the person at the end of each row could not pass their object a certain direction when there was no one next to them. At

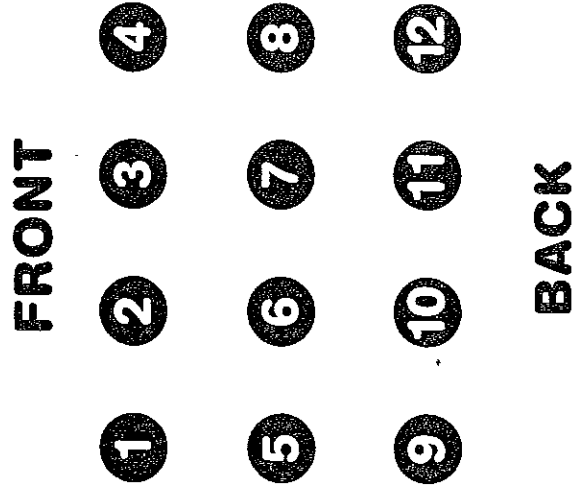


Fig. 1