

The telephone game can be played around the dinner table or anytime when at least 3 members of your family are present.

Start with single words if your child is very young and slowly move up to phrases, then entire sentences as your child becomes more competent at listening.

Make up a word or sentence and whisper it into your child's ear, who must whisper it to the next family member, who continues passing the message around the table. The last person to hear the message says it out loud.

This usually ends in laughter as the phrases often change and the message is broken. In time, your child will be able to listen to detail better and convey accurate messages.

Vary the sentences by using alliterations (e.g. my tiny teddy is talking) and rhyming sentences (e.g. do you have a blue shoe?).

Also, change the order of who-whispers-to-who and allow your child to make up messages as well.

