

Icebreaker: Pass the Clap

Grade Range: 4th-8th grade **Time:** 15 to 20 Minutes

Synopsis: Fun game that teaches students to connect through eye contact. It also allows students to practice taking turns, being patient.

Instructions:

1. Make a big circle with the whole class.
2. While standing in a circle to pass the clap, you must make eye contact with the "clap receiver", then clap. That person passes the clap to the next person, and so on.

There are a few varieties to add complexity to the game:

- Pass the clap, one by one, all the way around the circle.
- Pass it around the circle, then reverse and bring the clap back to the starting point. **TIP: students like to time how fast it takes for the clap to get around the circle. Then we time it again and see if they beat the previous time. (Which usually brings a celebration!)**
- Anyone can change the direction! This certainly livens things up! The clap can be passed across the circle.
- This last variation really requires focus and concentration, and plenty of team work! The children do rise for the occasion, and it's totally amazing!

Conclusion: After the game, invite the group to discuss what just happened. Did they learn anything from the game? What made it easy? hard? Weave into the discussion why it is important to practice skills such as eye contact and patience.