



Telephone

- Objective:** To help participants see the importance of communicating openly.
- Time:** 15 minutes
- Directions:** The facilitator whispers the story into one of the participant's ears. The participant repeats it quietly to the person next to him/her. This continues on until everyone in the room has heard the story. The last person tells the group the story he/she heard. The facilitator reads the original story. In a large group, you may want to divide the participants into two groups.
- Processing:**
- How close was the final story to the original story?
 - How often does this happen in your organization?
 - What can be done to make sure that everyone hears the same story?
- Story:** Here is a sample story, or make one up on your own. John Smith is planning to visit Jane Doe in Cincinnati. He lives in Canton and was trying to map out a route so he could drive through Mansfield, Columbus and Wilmington before arriving in Cincinnati. John and Jane were planning on visiting the new elephant exhibit at the zoo. John plans to drive on a route along the Ohio River and travel through southern Ohio on his way back to Canton.

Reference: Flynn, B. (1995). Communication, Family Nutrition Program. Ohio State University Extension.