



THE CLIMATE MESSAGE

“Spread the word?”

Sustainable development competencies: The participant will have the chance to develop Systems thinking & Strategic competencies.

Summary:

The objective of the game is to explore how complex climate messages are transferred and the appropriate use of climate messages. This game can also be used to understand how unreliable “word of mouth is” in an emergency situation and why clear messages are needed.

Resources needed:

- Pen
- One piece of paper

Activity development:

1. Ask yourself (or your child, family): “how do you get reliable information in a black-out?”. (Realistically, one of the answers will be “word of mouth” which is when you may start the game.)
2. Imagine a message and write it on a piece of paper. Imagine one or two sentences about a crisis situation, adapted of the age of your children/brothers/sisters. For example: “For next weeks, the weather announced non-stop snowfall in your region. The police said that they will have problems with the pipes freezing. It’s going to be complicated for difficult for the trucks that supply the supermarkets get on your village because there is so much snow.”
3. Make a line with all your family. You can sit or stand.
4. The person who wrote the paper is a politician giving the information to different people and organization to spread the information. The “line” is the all the people involved to spread the information. The last person, on the front line is the mayor of your city and have to take some measures.
5. Pass the message to the person at the end of the line. Consider two rules:
 - Rule 1: No repeating of the message - only say it once
 - Rule 2: No notes may be taken
6. Once the message reaches the end, ask the last person to write down the message that has reached them. Read the message and share it with the group.
7. Based on the message that was received by the front person, the group has to come up to you with measures of prevention.
8. Read the original message out-loud to your family. Then ask the person who participated in the game if this changes their measures.

9. Questions to continue the discussion:

Are the measures taken relevant? According to the climate message, were you able to decide on the necessary measures in preparation for the disaster? Are they applicable to the original climate message?

What made it easy, or difficult to communicate climate message?

Can you think of a way to make sure the correct information is given in a situation of black-out/crisis/natural disaster?

What can you learn from this activity?