A communication activity from the book
*104 Activities That Build: Self-Esteem, Teamwork, Communication, Anger Management, Self-Discovery, and Coping Skills*

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**Story Story**

To hear somebody say something and to actually listen to what is being said are two completely different things. Some people have a difficult time paying attention to what is said. They hear the voice but do not remember the words, and when at school or work, this can get them into trouble. This game gives people the chance to practice using good listening skills and to practice remembering what is said.

**Objective**
For individuals to show good listening skills and to show the ability to remember what they have heard.

**Who**
People who have difficulty listening and paying attention to whoever is talking.

**Group Size**
1 or more

**Materials**
- A short story book
- Game materials - varied

**Description**
Select a short story to be read to the group. Instruct the group to listen carefully to the story as you read it but offer no further instructions. Once you have read the story and put the book aside, inform the group that you will now play a game.

The game you select may be anything from an active gym game to a sit down board game. Play the game for only about five to ten minutes before quitting. After the game is played, read the story to the group again. Only this time stop at the end of each page and ask the group members to raise their hands if they can remember what happens on the next page. Allow them to guess what is next before turning the page.

This is a good test of listening skills and a good lesson on how much people really pay attention to what they hear!

**Discussion Prompts**
1. Was it easy or difficult for you to remember what was in the story? Why?
2. What does it mean “To hear someone”?
3. What does it mean “To listen to someone”?
4. What can you do to help yourself to remember what has been said?
5. Why is it important to listen to others?
6. How do you know when others are truly listening to you?

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