

The Wright Family – Online Version

- Have everyone in your group start with 15 pennies (or other small objects like paper clips, coins, buttons, etc.) in his/her left hand
- Tell the group that you are going to read them a story and every time they hear the word right (regardless of how it may be spelled), they are to pass one penny from their left hand to their right hand and, and every time they hear the word left, they should pass one penny from their right hand to their left hand.
- Start reading the story (separate page) slowly so that they have a chance to catch on to what you want them to do.
- After a few passes stop the story and ask them how they are doing.
- Check to see that everyone has the correct number of pennies in their left hand. If your group is typical, some will have the wrong number of pennies in each hand. Have them redistribute the pennies so that everyone is in the correct place.
- Now continue to read the story, getting faster as you go.
- Stop the story a couple of more times to check on how they are doing.
- After the story, return and discuss the debrief

Online Debrief:

- How much of the story can you remember?
- Downside of multi-tasking. To retain information from conversations with staff and campers, need to be focused
- What does this activity tell us about communication? Need to be present
- What does this activity tell us about listening skills?
- Also shows us about the use of words, especially with children.
- Tell them that during this activity, the idea was to not get too distracted by the rights and lefts and stay focused on what was happening in the story.
- Finally, discuss the importance of checking in regularly and something need to adjust/reset, even if it is in the middle of something (like an activity or special event).

This Story is Called “Life with the Wright Family”

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left at home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately yelling "It will be a right cold day before I return".

(4 Pennies in Right Hand)

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright and Shelly Wright and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway someone had left a trash can in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Tommy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Tommy took so long that they almost left him in the street. Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. Father Wright told her not to worry he had checked the stove and she had not left it on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone.

(6 Pennies in Left Hand)

No need to worry now, they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered that he had left his wallet at home. So Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car saying that she had to throw up. This of course got Mother Wright's attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright who was playing a game in the backseat.

(5 Pennies in Left Hand)

With all of this going on Father Wright decided that this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all of the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said "I wish the Wright family had never left the house! Right?"

(4 Pennies in Left Hand)