
Activity: The Wright Family

Goals

- A fun way to determine if students know their lefts and rights.
- An opportunity to stand and move. A little work, a little fun.
- Determine if students can concentrate while chaos is afoot.

Equipment/ Materials/Costs Less than \$5.

Purchase a package of 30 sturdy plain paper plates (chinet works well). Print pictures of cars that students might like to drive and tape them to the front of the 'steering wheel'. Be creative: trucks, cars, sports cars, tricycle, horse, Barbie jeep, motorcycles, race cars etc...

Time 10 - 15 minutes on Class #1

Description

- Students will choose their 'steering wheel' then make a circle small enough that they can pass plates easily between them. The instructor stands in the middle of the circle.
- The instructor will read the first 2 paragraphs. When the students hear the word right they will turn their 'wheels' to the right and then back to center, when they hear the word left they will turn their 'wheels' to the left and then back to center.

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".

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.

Pause to give students a chance to stop laughing, regain control of the classroom and ask the following questions:

- What was the name of the family? *The Wright Family*
- Where were they going? *On Vacation*
- What was left in the street? *The Trash can*

During the next section of reading, students will pass their plate either left or right when they hear the word. Let the giggling begin.

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.

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 today! Right?"

Notes/challenges

Many students do not know their left from their right.

Keeping students quiet so they can hear the story is the challenge.

Done correctly,(with the last word) student's plates will end up 2 plates to their right.

Origin

Adopted from presentations by Shari Lewis from Rowan University at ADTSEA Driver Education Conferences.