

# Obedience

## Sandy Says

(You can use any other name)

**Objective:** To practice listening carefully and to follow directions.

Sandy gives directions to the children, which they need to obey. Have the children sit in a circle and explain to them:

Today we are going to play a game in which our friend “Sandy” tells us to do things, which we must obey. So, if I say, “Sandy says stand up,” everyone should stand up. But, if I just say, “Stand up,” you should not stand up because Sandy didn’t say so and we are only obedient to Sandy in this game.

Now give a few examples, such as, “Sandy says touch your head,” “Sandy says clap your hands,” etc. Then give the command without saying “Sandy says...”

When the children have learned the game, they can take turns giving the commands.

## Classroom Rules Role Play

**Objective:** To practice obeying classroom rules.

Class rules and routines:

- Role-play classroom rules you have chosen, for example:
- Line up
- Clean up
- Stop talking and listen to the teacher
- Signs for changing activities
- Etc.

You can also have children role play situations pretending to be the teacher or other children that obey the teacher’s commands.

Remember to use polite and gentle words when giving instructions.

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## Circle Square

**Objective:** To help children develop the skill of listening carefully when obeying a command.

This game will help the children develop the skill of listening carefully so they can accurately obey commands. The teacher names a sequence, for example: circle, circle, square.

She then asks one child to repeat it. As the children become skillful in that one, she can then introduce other ones: square, square, circle; then: square, circle, square; etc.

Depending on the age of the children you may increase the level of difficulty.

Variations: Sequences of actions can also be used for more fun: jump, turn, touch

## Follow the Leader

**Objective:** To practice obedience to a designated leader.

Select a child to be the leader. The leader will move around while the other children follow. You may also make it more complex by having the children follow the actions of the leader, changing arm, head, and leg positions as they follow. You may use soft music while the children play "Follow the leader."

A more complex variation: Ask one child to be the guesser. The guesser will leave the group, and the other children will select one child to be the leader. The leader will do a series of movements, which the other children must follow. For example, when the leader is clapping hands, all the children clap their hands. Then, the leader switches to another movement – snapping, for example. All the other children immediately switch movements as well. The guesser must then decide who the leader is.

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## The Obedience Game

**Objective:** To practice obedience to the teacher.

The teacher arranges the classroom with all necessary props for this role-play prior to the children's arrival.

Materials: socks, laundry basket, ball, toy box, two small toys, shoes, coat, and wet wipes.

The teacher distributes the above materials around the room. The teacher demonstrates the activity by having the assistant ask her to "Please put the toys in the toy box."

Teacher replies, "Yes (use person's name), I will put the toys in the toy box."

The teacher stands up slowly and gently picks up the toys and places them in the box. She then returns to her place and sits on the floor.

The assistant says, "Thank you."

The teacher says, "You are welcome."

The teacher then invites each child, by name, one at a time to demonstrate their obedience when asked to do one of the following activities:

1. Would you please put the socks in the laundry basket?
2. Would you please put the toys in the toy box?
3. Would you please pick up the ball and give it to (another child)?
4. Would you please put the shoes in an orderly way at the door?
5. Would you please pick up the cups and put them in the sink?
6. Would you please put on this coat?
7. Would you please open the door?
8. Would you please clean your hands with this wet wipe?
9. Would you please come over here and sit reverently?