**Telephone**

**Space requirements:** Classroom/activity room

**Equipment:** None

**Group size:** Group of 10 or less participants

**Alternative:** This can be done as to increase communication skills as well. Understanding how self-advocacy can be more powerful.

**Accessibility:** Some may not want to have someone whisper in their ear think outside of the box to have them included (draw the word on their back, write I on a piece of paper, sign it, act it out, etc.)

**Program goal(s):**

1. Participants will learn how listening and speaking are part of communication.
2. They will learn that sometimes people need accommodations in order to communicate effectively.
3. Also can illustrate how if you are not AT your IEP meeting directly saying what your goals are, it is possible that when your messenger starts describing your goals, they may have got the message wrong, like in telephone.

**Program description:**

**Preparation:** None

**Instructions:**

This activity is just like the one everyone played as a child. Have the participants sit in a circle or some shape and think of a message to tell the starting person. The messages either relate to the class or to disability history. Whisper the phrase in the person’s ear and then have them pass the message on to the next person. Once the message has made it around the whole group have the last person say the message out loud. The catch is that the message can only be said once by each person. There is no repeating of the message. After each round talk about why the message did or did not make it around in its original form. Then discuss how listening and speaking are important parts of communication. Also be sure to talk with participants about how some people may be speaking as clearly as they can but they are still difficult to understand. Talk about how sometimes people may need accommodations in order to communicate effectively. An example of this could be someone who is deaf or hard of hearing. They may not be able to hear the message being said so they may need an interpreter or some other way to communicate.