**Pass the Word**

**Variation #1:** Students form a circle. The teacher chooses a category and asks students to think of four words that could fit into that category. Students hand the ball to the person on their right. As the ball is passed around the circle to a student, he/she calls out a word to fit in the category. NOTE: the last person to receive the ball has the hardest job because he/she cannot repeat any words that have been previously spoken. The activity is timed to determine how long it takes the class to complete passing the ball around the circle. If a student has trouble voicing a word that has not been called, the person on either side may help. The teacher records the class time and then the class tries to beat that time with the next concept (the next time they play).

**Variation #2:** A verbal student steps into the middle of the circle. He/she calls out as many words as possible to fit the category while the class acts as a timer, quickly passing the ball completely around the circle. Another student or the teacher counts the number of responses generated.

**Variation #3:** A student or the teacher controls the ball by standing in the middle. This student randomly tosses the ball to anyone in the circle. Wne the person in the circle catches the ball, he/she calls out a word in the category. The ball is then thrown back to the student in the center who generates another word and throws the ball to a new person in the circle. The student in the center generates every other response. Set a time limit and count the number of responses.

**Variation #4:** Paired Association

**After the activity:** Have students process the game by writing down their word and using it as the basis for a short piece of writing, such as explaining the relationship back to the category.