

# PRESCHOOLERS AIM TO SET A SIMON SAYS RECORD

By Lindsay Field • September 24, 2011



*Pre-kindergarteners Alina Virani, 4, foreground, and Shawn Wilson, 4, show off their pinkies as instructed by Coach Ray Marker from FitKids as he leads the game of Simon Says at The Goddard School on Friday afternoon.  
Cherokee Tribune/Laura Moon*

Simon Says, clap your hands!

The Goddard School locations in Kennesaw and Austell teamed up with at least 370 other schools across the nation to play the nation's largest game of Simon Says on Friday afternoon. In an attempt to set a Guinness World Record, 235 children ages 3 to 6 got to play the game in Cobb County.

Kay Erathara, owner of Goddard School in Kennesaw, said it's all about fun learning.

"It builds both your body and your brain ... and it's silly," she said. "It's important to combine a

healthy dose of fun, helping the body and brain learn."

The students in Kennesaw played the 15-minute game in the school parking lot and were led by Coach Ray Marker, who works with FitKids in Cobb.

The winner of Friday's game was Alysha Virani, 5, followed by Andrew Willingham, 5, in second place, and third-place winner Dylan Pham, 5.

McKenzie Glass, 4, said she has been practicing Simon Says this week and likes to tell her mom to jump up and down when they play at home.

Five-year-old Michael Cassell said Simon is his favorite name and he is pretty good at playing, so he thought he did well on Friday.

The event was part of a weeklong event that engaged children and their families in a variety of fitness, nutrition and playful learning activities based on the schools' core curriculum and enrichment programs.

"Our children are so excited to work together in an attempt to be part of a special record," Erathara said. "All of us, young and older, have great memories of playing the game 'Simon Says.' Couple the power of play with a record-breaking attempt, and we have the recipe for a very special day."

To break the record, Goddard Schools needed more than 12,215 participants playing the game at the exact same time.

Results and witness applications from Friday's game will be submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records and First Lady Michelle Obama as part of her Let's Move! initiative.

It could take between two and six months for the school to find out if they broke the record and to receive confirmation from the Guinness review board in England.