

VERNON HILLS SCHOOL AIMS TO SET GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

By John Roszkowski • September 26, 2011



The Goddard School in Vernon Hills is teaming up with Goddard Schools across the country to try to make the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's largest Simon Says game. Preschoolers at the school will be doing different activities such as touching toes, standing on one leg and other physical activities. | Joe Cyganowski-For Sun-Times Media

Children at a Vernon Hills preschool took part in one of the biggest games of Simon Says ever.

The Goddard School at Route 60 in Vernon Hills teamed up with about 370 other Goddard School locations nationwide in an attempt to make the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's largest Simon Says game.

During the same Simon Says game, preschool and kindergarten aged kids jumped on one leg, recited the alphabet, counted numbers, twirled around in circles, or whatever else the teacher asked them to do.

Ellen Ley, owner of the Goddard School in Vernon Hills, said the Simon Says game was part of a nationwide effort by the Goddard School to use playful activities to promote learning, physical fitness and healthy living among children. "It teaches children listening skills, following directions and gets them up and moving," she said.

Kids in the class seemed to enjoy playing the Simon Says game.

"I liked playing the game. I liked jumping and hugging the teacher," said 4-year-old Emma Boundy of Vernon Hills.

Aubrey Jepsen, 4, of Vernon Hills, said she had "lots of fun playing with all my different friends."

A total of 32 children at the Vernon Hills child care center took part in the game, with each child receiving a certificate for participating in the official Simon Says count.

"The kids had a great time. They're all telling their parents about the official count," said Ley.

Ley said she does not know yet whether the nationwide game achieved Goddard School's goal of breaking a Guinness World Record for the "Largest Game of Simon Says in Multiple Venues."

In order to break the record, the Goddard Schools, collectively, needed at least 12,215 participants playing the game at the same time. She expects the final count from all 370 Goddard School locations will be tabulated within the next two weeks.



Tom Ritter watches as one of the witnesses. | Joe Cyganowski-For Sun-Times Media