

# PRESCHOOL TRIES TO BREAK WORLD RECORD

By Matt Werner • September 28, 2011



*Zionsville Firefighter Joe Weder plays Simon Says with children from The Goddard School in Zionsville on Friday afternoon, Sept. 23. The Goddard School franchise tried to break the world record for the largest game of Simon Says in multiple venues. Photo by Matt Werner/Times Sentinel*

Zionsville — Zionsville could be included in the Guinness Book of World Records thanks to a local preschool.

The Goddard School in Zionsville partnered with more than 370 Goddard Schools around the country on Friday, Sept. 23, to try to break the world record for the number of people playing a classic playground game, Simon Says, at the same time.

“It’s a fun way for kids to get involved,” Dea Walls, owner of The Goddard School in Zionsville, said. “It’s something fun for kids to look back on and say they were a part of.”

Walls said Simon Says worked well for The Goddard School because of their approach to educating children.

“Doing Simon Says was an easy decision,” Walls said. “It really fits well with our philosophy of power of play. We provide a healthy, active lifestyle message to our kids. It shows the importance of healthy learning to Zionsville parents.”

In order to break the record, 12,215 people needed to participate in the attempt. Walls said that should not be an obstacle.

“I think with everybody participating (around the country), we should be able to break the record,” she said.

Walls said the idea started about a year ago and the last nine months have been used to finalize all the plans.

“We had to do it at 1 p.m. so that the schools in different time zones wouldn’t have an obstacle,” Walls said. “That was one thing that we had to adjust for.”

The Goddard School in Zionsville contributed 62 individuals towards the total. Participants included students, teachers, some parents and three firefighters.

Firefighters Scott Plummer, Joe Weder and Benjy Johnson played with the children while Shane Daugherty and Steve Hayes served as the official witnesses for the record-breaking attempt.

The game lasted for 10 minutes with kindergartener Willow Abramson being named the winner. If the attempt does break the record, her name will appear in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Walls said they must send in all of their information and would hear back in a few days whether they broke the record or not. The results were unknown as of press time.

“It hasn’t been difficult to get everything together,” she said. “Everybody was excited about this project to try to break a world record.”