

# YORK PRESCHOOL ATTEMPTS TO BREAK WORLD RECORD FOR LARGEST GAME OF SIMON SAYS

## Preschools have to wait to hear from Guinness officials

By Tyra M. Vaughn • September 23, 2011



Kelly, 4, is one of a few finalists as she and other Goddard School preschoolers attempt to break the "Simon Says" world record at the school in York County on Friday. 370 other Goddard Schools are also participate in the event.

**YORK**— It had been more than a decade since Blake Leonard participated in the game, "Simon Says," but on Friday she played alongside her 3-year-old cousin's classmates at the Goddard School in York County and it was as though she never stopped.

The 21-year-old Arkansas resident touched her shoulders, barked like a dog, roared like a lion and slithered like a snake during the nearly 15-minute game at the preschool off of Hampton Highway in York County.

"It was a little bit silly, but it was a lot of fun," said Leonard, who played with her cousin, Shay Hohlrieder.

There was also a world record at stake.

Leonard was one of 80 people who packed a Goddard School classroom in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest game of "Simon Says."

"Simon Says" requires participants to follow playful instructions whenever the leader says, "Simon Says." Players are eliminated from the game when they follow an instruction that is not preceded by the phrase, "Simon Says."

The York preschool played the game simultaneously with more than 370 other schools in the chain in an attempt to break the record.

The participants in the York game included students ranging in age from 2 to 6 years old, in addition to their family members.

The world record for the largest game of "Simon Says" involved 12,215 participants at the Utah Summer Games Opening Ceremony in Cedar City, Utah in 2007, according to Guinness Book officials.



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The world record attempt is part of the Goddard School's weeklong Block Party events, which are aimed at engaging children and their families in fitness, nutrition and playful learning activities, said Bob Norman, owner of the Goddard School in York.

He said the effort was a way to share with the community the school's message of learning through play.

"We play the game all the time because it is part of our curriculum," Norman said. "It teaches students their body parts and about listening and following directions."

Participants in the York event were required to fill out cards that will be tallied and sent to the school's corporate office and eventually to Guinness Book officials to determine if the preschools broke the record.

Norman said he isn't sure how long it will take to hear back from Guinness.

He said his students were excited to be a part of the record attempt.

But on Friday the students were more concerned about playing the game than making history.

Even when students were eliminated for not following directions, they continued to play the game.

For Leonard, who won the York location's game, it was all about spending the day with her cousin.

"It was cute watching the kids play," Leonard said. "It really wasn't how I expected to spend my vacation."

### **Who holds the record?**

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