

# Name Tap

From *Ryhmä toimivaksi* by Laura Jääskeläinen

**DURATION:** 15-20 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** A ROLLED-UP NEWSPAPER AND CHAIRS

Participants sit in a circle with one fewer chair than there are players. One volunteer (or the teacher) stands in the middle holding a rolled-up newspaper. Someone sitting in the circle says, "Greetings to Emma!" and the person in the middle tries to tap Emma's knee with the newspaper before Emma can pass the greeting to someone else by saying, "Greetings to [another name]!"

If Emma doesn't manage to pass the greeting quickly enough, she switches places with the person in the middle.

Once the group has the hang of it, add a new rule: Whenever the person in the middle manages to sit down in the circle, they must say a greeting to someone before sitting. If they forget and sit down without saying anything, they get tapped and return to the middle. This often leads to lots of laughter and playful chaos.

## **Laura's Tip:**

*The group should already know at least some names for this activity to work. This is a great activity for reinforcing name memory, and it works well even with more established groups. If the person in the middle is struggling to get out, you can make the sentence longer – e.g., "Sending warm and sunny greetings to Emma!" Or you can make the circle smaller. If the game is too easy, make the sentence shorter (e.g., just the name) or enlarge the circle to increase the challenge.*

### **Hi! I'm Laura Jääskeläinen**

I'm a teacher turned group dynamics coach from Finland. This activity is from *Ryhmä toimivaksi*, my bestselling Finnish guide to building safe, connected classrooms. An English edition is on the way.

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