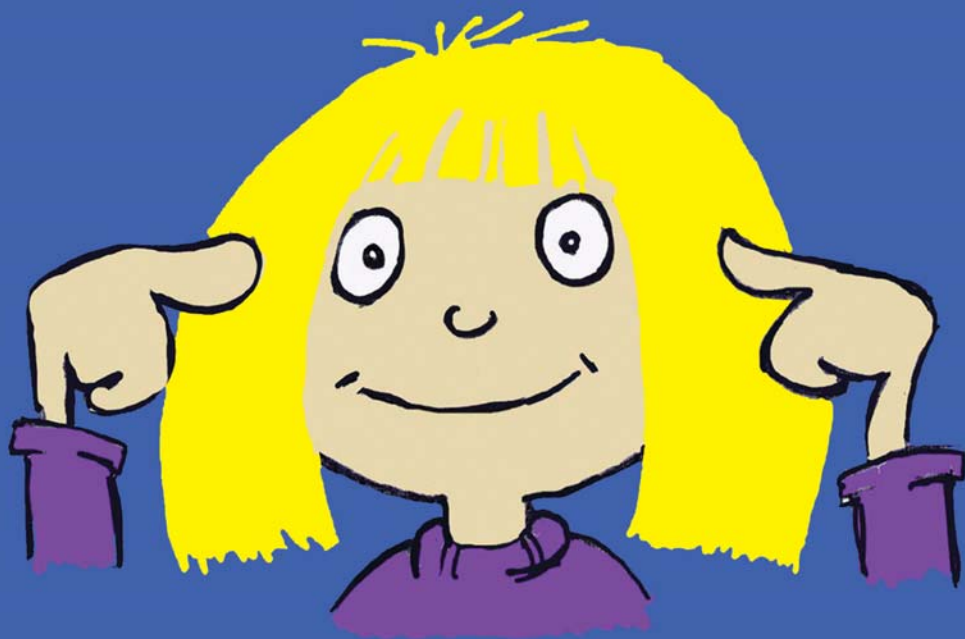


# Jenny Mosley's

Small Book  
of

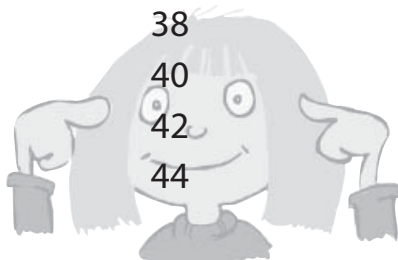


# Thinking Skills

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# I like you because ...



**What you need:** space

**Preparation:** none

## What to do:

The children all stand in a circle for a game of listening and thinking.

The leader goes round the circle and taps one child on the shoulder. The tapped player must immediately close their eyes.

The leader then calls, *hum*, and everyone in the group must hum quietly. While they are humming, the leader whispers the name of another child in the tapped child's ear.

The tapped child must then describe the named player whilst keeping their eyes closed. If your children are very young, you will need to help them with prompts like, *can you remember the colour of her dress?* If they are older, you can help them create a much more rounded description – how they look, their personality, their strengths, their likes and dislikes. These observations **MUST** be positive, kind-hearted and thoughtful. Everyone must be clear that 'put downs' are not allowed in this game.

They must also say one thing they like about this person.

The other players listen carefully and when they think they know who it is, they are allowed to raise their hand.

The leader then tells the tapped child that they can open their eyes and choose someone to guess who they were describing.

If the child has identified the child correctly, they become the new leader and the game continues.

If they guess incorrectly, the tapped child chooses another child to guess until the correct answer is given.

*Well done, all the correct guesses mean you are using your thinking skills.*

## Now try this ...

Lead the child in this rhyme:

*We tap our shoulders. We tap our knees.  
If we were **ice** we would certainly **freeze**.*

Children sit very still.

Continue with: jelly – wobble; rubber – bounce; stardust – float;  
and sunshine – smile.

*Children, can you think of any things we could do together?*



# What's in the box today?



**What you need:** a box with a lid

**Preparation:** none

## What to do:

You need a box that is large enough for a child to put their hand inside. It must have a lid and cannot be transparent.

Put a small object inside the box. Make sure that no-one can see what you are putting inside.

Sit the children down and hold up the box.

Say,

*What's inside the box today,  
Box today, box today?  
What's inside the box today?  
Guess right, and I will say.*

The children ask you questions until they have built up an idea of what is inside.

*How does it feel?  
How many legs does it have?  
What shape is it?  
Where does it live?*

etc.

You must answer the questions as clearly as possible.

For instance, if the object were a tennis ball, the answers would be –

*It feels springy and a little bit fluffy.*

*It doesn't have any legs at all.*

*It has a round shape.*

*It lives in the games store cupboard.*

Keep answering the questions until a child guesses correctly. This child is invited to come forward, open the box and show its contents to the rest of the group.

You can play this game frequently and ask the children to put different items inside and answer the questions.

### **Now Try these:**

- A fluffy toy
- A wiggly spider
- A hairbrush
- A pair of woolly gloves
- A flower
- A plastic mug
- A toy car.

