

John Buckley re the game “Whoosh!”

You are free to this game it as it is not mine. I would love it though if you were to credit the man who showed me – Dr Peter Spitzer- a wonderful man who founded Clown Doctors in Australia (I think the only one who was a medical doctor) who, sadly, died in 2014.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/obituaries/dr-peter-spitzer-founder-of-the-australian-clown-doctor-program-20140829-109yj3.html>

### Whoosh

- Form a circle
- Get an (imaginary) ball
- Explain ‘whoosh’ – the sound the ball makes as it passes from person to person, but only whoosh and pass the ball around the circle once or twice with the sound effects and any commentary you like to add
- Explain ‘wah’ (hands up, loud wah sound!) And refuse to accept the ball forcing the ball movement to reverse direction) – no it may or may not get around the circle or some-one may be caught in a ‘wah trap’ by the people either side
- When ready introduce ‘zap’ – eyeball someone in the circle and zap the ball straight to that person. Zaps can’t be wah-ed
- Go around again for a while
- Introduce, one at a time, ‘Boing’ (while holding the ball, before passing it on, squat slowly down and back up while saying boing slowly – ‘boing’ is followed by a whoosh or a zap; and then ‘groovelation’ (works like ‘boing’ but ‘wiggle that ass’ or do a little dance while holding the ball)
- Finally introduce ‘freak out’ – while holding the ball yell ‘freak out’ – everyone puts their arms in the air and yells “freak out” and runs through the circle to take up a new position somewhere else. I find that after two ‘freak outs’ is a good time to end the game.

### Additional Notes

What Genevieve Yates taught me about Whoosh not just being a fun game but also as a metaphor for work

- We normally just whoosh our work along and each person does their bit
- Sometimes it is not our work and we wah and force it back OR someone wahs us and we are stuck with it
- Sometimes it is most efficient to find the relevant person and get it straight to them (zap). Zap I also a way out If we are caught in a wah trap
- Sometimes we need to hold our work and have a think or do a bit more on it before we pass it on (boing)

- When possible, if we are holding the work we may as well try to enjoy it (groovelation)
- When someone 'freaks out' at work or about work it often causes a general freak out and is very disruptive and can be risky. Sometimes though it can end up with a worthwhile re-organisation?!

John