Two teams play. The team in possession throws the ball between team-mates. In Keentan both the passer and receiver must be off the ground when the ball is passed or received. An easier version requires only the passers or the receivers to be off the ground. (Teams of 4 or more.)

**What you need**

- A marked playing area about the size of a netball court
- A ball such as a volleyball or size 3–4 soccer ball

**What to do**

**Team in possession**

- Start play from the centre of the court.
- Players jump and attempt to pass the ball to a team-mate while they are *in the air*.

**Team seeking possession**

- A team gains possession if the opposing team with the ball drops it or by intercepting the ball.
- Possession changes if a player steps out of the area with the ball.
- No physical contact and guarding must be from 1m away.
- All players are free to move around without obstruction.

Neither team is allowed to kick the ball.

**Scoring**

- One point is scored if possession is retained for a set number of passes, e.g. 5.
- The first team to a set number of points is the winner, e.g. 5.

**LEARNING INTENTION** Keentan adds a jumping dimension to a basic invasion game involving passing. This adds an extra dimension of timing and agility.
**Coaching**

Combining jumping and throwing or jumping and catching takes some practice. Be lenient if the timing of a jump and pass are not perfectly coordinated. Remember the essence of the game is passing to team-mates without interception.

**Change it**

*Simplify the activity!* Introduce players gradually to executing the pass or catch in the air, e.g. a player might simply jump with the ball, land and then pass it. Or a receiving player might catch the ball first and then jump and land, before passing it on.

- Jump with pass or jump with catch or both;
- Vary the team sizes, e.g. 3 v 4.
- While in possession; alternate jump passes with regular passes.
- Allow players to run freely.
- Teams score in their goal area.
  - The point is won when the ball is passed to a designated player in the goal area.
  - Play recommences from the base-line with the opposite team.
- Different balls – size and shape.
- Larger or smaller playing area.

**Safety**

- Ensure separations between players as described are observed.
- No diving on loose balls.
- Ensure familiarity with space and player awareness activity prerequisites e.g. Look out for others

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders histories and cultures**

Keentan is a catching game from the north west central districts of Queensland. The jumping action of the players to catch the ball resembled the movements of a kangaroo resulting in the Kalkadoon people describing the game as the ‘kangaroo-play’. The ball was made of a piece of possum, wallaby or kangaroo hide tied up with twine. The name is taken from ‘play’ (keentan) in the Wik-Mungkan language of north Queensland.