

Building Blocks

Category of Competencies: Professionalism Skills

Description:

An activity to explore how the group works together to complete a task while becoming aware of different styles of leadership within the group.

Activity Categories:

Group, Fun, Interactive, Task-Based

Main Competencies Involved:

Accepting Feedback, Attention to Detail, Determination, Patience, Perseverance, Teamwork

Other Competencies (Different Category):

Listening Skills, Outcome Oriented, Reasoning

Resources Needed and Practical Considerations:

2 or 3 sets of Octons or Lego Blocks

Prior to the session, build a model out of the Octons or Lego Blocks. It should be fairly complex and include different colours. Ensure each group has more than enough pieces in their sets to complete it and that they have the exact colours used in the model.

Note: If Octons/Lego are not available, this activity can be completed with any type of modelling materials.

Estimated Time:

45 minutes

Description of Activity:

Step 1: Place the Octons/Lego model outside the room (just outside the door) without participants seeing it.

Step 2: Divide participants into groups of no more than 4 people.

Step 3: Explain that each group will be given a set of Octons/Lego. Their goal is to build a replica of the model outside the door.

Step 4: Explain that each group is made up of the following roles:



- **Observer:** Can go anywhere in the room but cannot talk or help in any way. Their role is to observe how the group works as a team.
- **Architect:** Can look at the model outside and give instructions to the builders but cannot touch the Octons/Lego. They can only explain verbally how to build it and may not point at the model.
- **Builder:** Can assemble the Octons/Lego, but cannot look at the original model outside the room.

Step 5: Outline the rules:

- Once someone has seen the model, they cannot become a builder.
- Each team may only have one architect leaving the room at a time. The architect role may change, but once someone relinquishes this role, they can no longer participate in the activity.

Step 6: Distribute Octon/Lego blocks to each group.

Step 7: Ask for a volunteer from each team to be the observer. If any participants have taken part in this activity before, suggest that they become the observer.

Step 8: Ask each team to select their architect. The remaining members will take on the role of builders.

Step 9: Allow teams 15 minutes to recreate the model. After time is up, bring the whole group back together and bring the original model inside for comparison with each team's version.

Step 10: Ask the observers to share feedback on how their group worked as a team.

Processing Questions:

Did you plan how to work as a team, or did you jump right in?

How did you decide who would look at the model, and who would build it?

Was everyone listened to?

How can you apply what you have learned?

