

Building Community - Team Builders

Getting To Know You

Mingle

The group mingles around, casually talking to each other. As they continue mingling, you call out a name of a category, like pets. The players then have to find other people who have that in common with them. Other categories you can try are: someone with the same number of brothers and sisters as you, someone with the same color eyes as you, someone with one of your hobbies. Let one of the players take your place and be the leader who can call out the categories.

People to People

Everybody mingles around, greeting one another normally (thus the title "People to People"). You, as the leader, stop movement by proclaiming "elbow to elbow!" or "knee to ear!" The group must form whatever configuration you say by finding someone to touch elbows with or a knee to put an ear on. When you say "people to people," the mingling and greeting begins again. The game becomes more creative when you announce animal configurations, like "Elephant to elephant!" or "Snake to snake!" or "Alien to alien!" These can lead to "Trunk to trunk!" and "Tail to tail!"

In Common

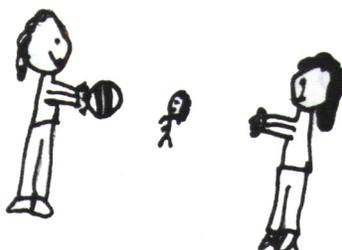
Participants face the inside of the circle on their individual spots. One person (start with the teacher modeling several times, then each student will do it once) will state something true about themselves. An example might be "I have taken ballet lessons." Then everyone who has this "In Common" with the person who stated "I have..." will leave their spots and trade with someone else. This is followed by another person sharing something true about themselves. Then everyone who has this "In Common" with the person who stated "I have..." will leave their spots and trade with someone else.

I Love My Neighbor

Participants face the inside of the circle on their individual spots, except for one person, for example Jamal, who is "It" and stands in the middle. Jamal starts by saying "I love my neighbor who..." finishing with a characteristic or description, such as, "I love my neighbor who has an older brother." Then all the participants to whom this is true leave their spots and trade with someone else. Jamal then scrambles for the open spaces, and whoever is left without a seat is the new "It" and must begin again saying "I love my neighbor who..." Each person who is "It" is not allowed to repeat any of the other things previous "Its" have said.

Trust

Participants are in pairs. They will connect with hands (you could also do it with elbows, fingers, etc.). One person will close their eyes and the leader will keep their eyes open. They will then start walking together. It is the responsibility of the leader with the eyes open to lead the other person who is trusting them on a safe path while they are walking around. Initially do for short segments (e.g. 30 seconds), then have the pairs switch who is the leader.



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