Icebreakers

LEGO - Building collaboratively

Summary

Icebreaker length - 15/30 mins

The LEGO challenge is a fun and relatively quick activity for students to work together to carry out a challenge without being able to speak - helping them to reflect on collaboration and the role of nonverbal and verbal communication in team settings. This can help students to develop Key Skills in Communication and Working Together and can support activities where teamwork is crucial.

Delivery

Materials

Lego blocks of several different colours – you can change colours in instructions below to match what you have

A Lego base

Printed instructions cut up so that they can be handed out individually
Setup:

- Group students into teams

- Place a Lego kit on each table and let students know that from the moment you hand out their instructions there should be absolute silence in the room

- Let them know that they are now as a group going to build a structure with the Lego in front of them using the instructions you are about to hand out.

- Hand out individual instructions to each of the team members – the student should read their instruction and then fold it and put it away making sure no one else sees it

- Ask if all students understand their instruction – if they have a question they can ask you for clarification (quietly). Make it clear that each person needs to understand their instruction so that their team can succeed in the challenge.

- Give them 10 minutes to build their structure, letting them know when they are ½ way there (5 mins) and when they have 1 min to go

- How well they think they worked together as a group to accomplish the challenge? How well did they do in trying to accomplish their own individual instruction?

- How did it feel to:
  - Not be able to do what they wanted/were tasked to do?
  - Tear down the work of their teammates in order to accomplish their task?
  - What are the attributes the team needed to perform well?
  - What are the attributes that held a team back?
LEGO INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS - ONE SET PER TEAM

1. You are the only person allowed to build (put together pieces) in the first 3 layers of the structure

2. You have to ensure that the 3rd layer and the 4th layer of the structure are made entirely out of yellow bricks

3. You have to ensure that the 2nd and the 6th layer of the structure are made up of exactly 8 pieces (no more, no less)

4. You are the only person that is allowed to build (put pieces together) in the 5th and 6th layer of the structure

5. You have to ensure that a maximum of 8 pieces are used in the 3rd and 5th layer of the structure

6. You have to ensure that any pieces next to each other in the 1st, 6th and 8th layers are not the same colour

7. You have to ensure that you and 2 other people build the 4th and 8th layer together

8. You have to ensure that the 2nd and the 5th layer of the structure consists only of red pieces

9. You are the leader of the group – you have to ensure that construction is completed as fast as possible while ensuring that all of your team members are 100% successful in their tasks.

10. You have to ensure that a maximum of 3 people build (put pieces together) the 4th and 7th layer of the structure

11. You have to ensure that the 7th layer consists of a maximum of 10 pieces

12. You have to ensure that the structure has no more than 10 layers

13. You are a creative addition to the group – you have free rein to decide what you want to add to the structure as your team members work.
ROCK/PAPER/SCISSORS

Delivery

Room setup:

Move all tables and chairs to the side of the room so students can move around the length of the room. Divide the group in two and have them line up either side of the room.

The Icebreaker:

Invite students to create three new symbols for Rock, Paper and Scissors. Instead of a simple hand movement, they develop a whole-body movement and sound to depict the object. Encourage students to be as dramatic as possible. As a whole, the students should develop a new movement for rock, paper and scissors.

Now in their own groups, students secretly decide which move they will make first. Once both groups have decided a facilitator should count down from 5. Students reveal their move as loudly as possible. Repeat several times.
INTRODUCTIONS + PRONOUNS

Delivery

Room setup:

Introduce the Icebreaker:

Ground rules:

1-20

Delivery

Room setup:

Introduce the Icebreaker:

Ground rules:

I WENT ON HOLIDAYS TO...

Delivery

Room setup:
Introduce the Icebreaker:

Ground rules:

PICTIONARY

Delivery

Room setup:

Introduce the Icebreaker:

Ground rules:

TAPE GAME

Delivery

Materials:

Masking tape
Markers
A3/A2 Paper
String

Room setup:

Introduce the Icebreaker:

Ground rules:
HUMAN BINGO

Delivery

Materials:
Human bingo sheet which you can find here

Room setup:

Introduce the Icebreaker:

Ground rules: