

Building Trust

Overview:

Children learn about the need for trust when working together.

Materials:

- An object made from LEGOS or other building-block materials
- LEGOS or blocks to make a replica of the object (enough for each group)

Procedure:

1. Ask: When do we need to trust other people? Field answers. Ask: When do people need to trust you? Define and discuss cooperation and teamwork. Emphasize the importance of trusting the accuracy of information when people work together. Say: When we work together to achieve a goal, we must trust each other. Can anyone explain why? Discuss examples of what may go wrong when people work together but don't trust each other. Ask: How can we get others to trust us? List answers.
2. Divide the children into groups and distribute building blocks. Make sure the model object is hidden from view. Introduce the activity. Say: We're going to practice teamwork and show our trustworthiness by constructing an exact copy of an object made out of blocks (or LEGOS, etc.). The problem is, the object is hidden and only one person from each group will be allowed to see it. This person must go back and tell the rest of his/her group how to build it based on what he/she saw. Those in the groups must take turns adding a piece to build their replica. The person who saw the object is not allowed to touch the replica his/her group is building.
3. When all groups have finished, discuss the process. Ask the children to explain what skills were needed, how they showed trustworthiness, and the effect it had on the outcome.

Adapted from an idea submitted by Herb Gould, a CHARACTER COUNTS! Character Development Seminar trainer and police officer in Waverly, Tennessee.

McREL standards

Arts

Standard 2. Knows how to use structures (e.g., sensory qualities, organizational principles, expressive features) and functions of art.

Level II, Benchmark 3. Uses visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas.

<http://www.mcrel.org/Standards-benchmarks/>