

Building Castles⁹

Key Learning

To promote inclusion.

Goal Of The Game

To work in groups to build a castle using paper while ignoring one member of the team.

What You Need

Equipment

- Paper (or index cards)
 - 10–12 per group

No. of players

- 6 or more

Opening Questions

- What is a group that you enjoy being part of? (For example, a sports group or school club.) Why do you enjoy it?

How To Play

1. Divide the players into groups of 8–10.
2. Give each group 10 pieces of paper.
3. Ask for one volunteer from each group to step out of the room or move to an area where they cannot hear the group.
4. To the remaining group members explain and demonstrate that:
 - Each group must try to construct a castle that is as tall as possible using the pieces of paper.
 - Each group will discuss strategies of how they will accomplish this.
 - When the volunteer returns, the group will ignore everything that the volunteer attempts to tell them and turn their positions away from the volunteer.
5. Speak to the group of volunteers gathered outside the room or out of hearing distance.
6. Explain and demonstrate that:
 - The groups are beginning to discuss how to build castles with pieces of paper.
 - When the volunteers return to their groups each volunteer will tell the group that he or she has the best possible idea of how to accomplish this task.
7. Allow one minute for the “ignoring” experience, then stop the game to begin the discussion.

⁹ Gibbs, J. (2000). *Tribes: A New Way of Learning and Being Together* (p. 317). Sausalito, CA: CenterSource Systems. NOTE: Permission to use granted by CenterSource Systems, LLC, publisher of *Tribes: A New Way of Learning and Being Together*, by Jeanne Gibbs, © 2000, Windsor, CA, www.tribes.com.

Building Castles *continued*



Watch For

- Are the players trying to ignore the volunteers?
- Are volunteers trying to offer their own ideas?

Discussion

Reflect

- Volunteers, what did you experience during this activity? How did it make you feel? Why?
- How did the rest of the group feel when they had to ignore the volunteers?

Connect

- Are there groups of people in your community who are ignored? How are they ignored?
- Why are some groups ignored?

Apply

- What are ways that you can make others feel included?

Variations

- Replace the activity with a sport such as football or volleyball in which one player doesn't get a chance to participate.

Inclusion

- Refer to pp. 14–18.