



Activities to support your Co-op or to help in working co-operatively together

ICE BREAKER

Archipelago (or Islands)

This activity helps a group to get to know about each other and can also be used to gather information. It can be fun and provide a few laughs and breaks up friendship groups and encourages people to mix.

Get the group to stand in a circle with a small gap at one point, so that there is a starting point and an end point. Explain that everyone is a small island and that they have to organise themselves in alphabetical order going by their first names. So the Annette's and Aaron's will be at one end and the Zara's and Zebedee's at the other. When they are all in place, do a Mexican wave with the leader shouting out the letters in the alphabet and the group waving when their letter comes along. From this everyone will be able to see if the exercise worked!

You can ask them all sorts of questions - for example: the month of their birth, how far they have travelled to the event etc. You can also ask them to do it without speaking, this can be great fun!

INFORMATION GATHERING

Hand Pair Share

Ask your group to mill about the room. When the leader calls HAND everyone keeps walking whilst raising their right hand. When the leader calls PAIR the group has to pair up placing their right hands together. When the leader calls SHARE, the leader gives them the question or topic to share. For example: what is your favourite food, when have you worked with young people in a challenging situation, when have you felt threatened or bullied.

At the end of the questions the leader calls everyone together and asks the questions again asking people to feedback something they have heard from another person, not their own answers. This information can be written up on flip chart and be used for further exploration of a subject and further activities.

EVALUATION

Targets

A simple way of evaluating a session or activity which gives instant feedback is by a Target evaluation. On a piece of flip chart draw a large circle with two inner circles and a middle 'bulls eye'. Draw a line right through the circle from top to bottom and from left to right giving you four quarters. On the outside edge of each quarter write your question. For example: Did you enjoy today's workshop? Have you learnt something new? Are the skills learnt today transferrable?

Give each participant 4 sticky coloured dots and ask them to place one in each quarter, the nearer the bullseye the more positive and as you go outwards less positive. This gives an instant image of how well the session or activity has gone.

If you don't have coloured sticky dots, ask participants to make a cross with a marker pen. Remember to take a photograph of the finished target for your records.

Activities provided by FIRST QUESTION CO-OPERATIVE



First Question is a worker co-op of trainers working in educational, community and business settings.

These are just a few of our activities which we hope you'll find useful, we have many more! Please contact us to know more about the programmes we offer or to discuss a project we can tailor make for you.

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