

TITLE: Conveyor Belt

IMPACT: Icebreaker, get the room buzzing, gives everyone a chance to meet everyone else and find out a little information about each person

RISK: Low

GROUP SIZE: 10 or more

TIME REQUIRED: 1 minute for everyone in the group plus 5-10 minutes for instructions and confusion

DIRECTIONS:

- Ask everyone to stand in two lines, facing each other along the tape. Everyone should place his hands on the shoulders of the person across from him. The facilitator should NOT get in the line. This is a complicated activity to lead, and timing and talking is really challenging.
- If there is:
 - An odd number of people, ask the person without a partner to stand next to the facilitator.
 - An even number of people, ask one pair to step out of the line and stand next to the facilitator. More about these people later.
- Ask the partners to introduce themselves to one another.
- Now explain that you are going to read a series of questions. The person on the side of the line to the left of the facilitator will always answer the question first. When you yell “switch” the person to the right of the line will have a chance to answer.
- After 1 minute, you will yell “rotate”. At that point everyone must be SILENT. Once everyone is silent, they should take one step to the right. Since everyone is stepping to the right, the participants will skip a person each time. They will worry about this, but assure them that eventually they will get a chance to talk to everyone.
- Once everyone has rotated, the facilitator should read another question. Partners should introduce themselves and answer the questions.
- Don’t forget about the person or people that are standing next to the facilitator since they are the key to making this all work right. If there is:
 - One person out, then that person will sit out the first question and then step into the first space on the right side of the line after the facilitator says rotate for the first time. At that time the person at the end of the left line will step out of the line, stand next to the facilitator, and sit out for one question before stepping back into the beginning of the right line.
 - Two people out, ask one of these people to be out permanently. Their role will be to partner with the person who has stepped out of the rotation, but they will never enter the rotation. The other person will sit



out the first question and then step into the beginning of the right side of the line as described above.

HINTS: What to do if:

- Someone wants to enter the conveyor belt after it begins.
 - Ask them to be the permanent partner at the end of the line who talks to the person who is waiting out a turn. OR,
 - Ask the two people who are already standing out at the end of the line to step into the line as partners, and ask the new person to wait out the first question and then step into the beginning of the right side of the line.
- Someone needs to leave once the conveyor belt has started.
 - Tackle them and don't let them go ...

