TITLE: Line Ups & Group Sorting Games

IMPACT: Get people to line up or sort a large group into small groups or pairs in a fun and energizing way

RISK: Low

GROUP SIZE: Any size will work

TIME REQUIRED: 1-15 minutes

DIRECTIONS:
A. Lineups
- In order to get people into a line try asking them to line up by: age, date of birth, the time you got up this morning, the distanced traveled to get here, the number of people in your family, alphabetically by first or last name or month of birth, shoe size, height, or telephone number.

- Whisper to each member of the group the name of a particular animal. The group must line up from the largest animal to the smallest by making the animal's sound and/or acting like the animal. No talking. Then when they have lined up, have each person present their animal to the group; the group must guess the person's animal identity. See how close the group came in its size lineup. This can also be done blindfolded or with eyes closed by just using noises.

B. Groups
- <u>Categories</u>: To get people into small groups ask people to get together with others who have the same:

○ Favorite toothpaste	○ Number of siblings
○ Favorite TV show	○ Hair color
○ Favorite pizza topping	○ Eye color
○ Favorite sport	○ Shirt color
○ Favorite ice cream	○ Age
○ Favorite animal	○ Zodiac sign
○ Favorite color	○ Birthday month

  OPTION:
  This can be made more challenging by asking participants to sort into groups non-verbally. They must use body/sign language to communicate.

- <u>Animal Sounds</u>: Before the day starts, divide the list of participants into groups, and assign an animal to each group. When making nametags for the

participants, put either an animal sticker or a colored underline on each nametag.

When it is time to break up into small groups, explain that people are going to gather in small groups based on their nametag. In order to find their group members, they will need to make the sound of their animal. (If the nametags have colors instead of animals on them, give participants a verbal or visual explanation of what animal corresponds to what color). Participants should find their group members by closing their eyes and making the sound of their animal.

- Object Sorting: Give each participant (or let them choose from a box of items) a small object, such as a playing card, seed, shell, button, or rock; and ask the group to divide into smaller groups or pairs by finding people with similar objects. These objects can have obvious differences (aces, diamonds, hearts, and spades look very different) or subtle differences where participants have to figure out what the commonalities are (rough, smooth, pointy, round). To challenge the group, limit the number of small groups that can be formed so that the large group will have to agree on a classification scheme that works for everyone's object. If the group has trouble with this, the facilitator can decide to accept a small group whose name is called "other" (i.e. no one could come up with a classification scheme that included these objects). This last variation where the number of small groups is limited may work best with less than 20 participants.

- Numbers: Have people hold up any number of fingers and then ask them to get into groups with other people holding up the same number.

- Questions: Another way to get people in pairs is to ask them to write down a question they have about a topic that is the basis for the upcoming activity. After writing it down, each person should find someone with the same question. That will be their partner. (Now collect those questions, and use them).

HINT: If you're playing these games to create groups for a subsequent activity, don't tell the participants why you want them to get together in groups or pairs until after they have done so. That way they won't be tempted to cheat!

The Food Project