

TITLE: What Makes the World Go Round

IMPACT: Trust building, problem solving, cooperation, and team skills

RISK: Low to moderate

GROUP SIZE: Any number over 4 or 5

TIME REQUIRED: 30 minutes

DIRECTIONS:

- Start by telling the group that a lot of times we get so caught up in what we think we have or don't have that we don't realize that we are all in the same boat.
- If you have more than 10 people in your group, divide them into 2 groups with two puzzles. Have the group choose 2 people to be their "guides". The two people need to be perceived as "different" from each other. In a few minutes, the rest of the group will be blindfolded and their task will be to put the puzzle together in a safe manner without talking or touching their guides. It's OK if they touch other members in their group, but they cannot talk.
- The group that will be blindfolded has 3 minutes to agree how they are going to communicate with each other nonverbally and how they are going to communicate with the guides without talking or touching them.
- Blindfold the group. Hand them the puzzle pieces. If you feel that your group may become quickly frustrated by this activity, you might want to impose a time limit before they begin, say three or five minutes.
- After five minutes, which will be long enough for most groups, you may want to stop and process how everyone was feeling and then have the group go ahead and put the puzzle together with their eyes open. This will leave them with a positive experience and may encourage discussion about the need for open communication - keeping both eyes and ears open - in order to accomplish the task of making change happen.

DISCUSSION:

- How did it feel not to be able to see?
- How did it feel not to be able to talk?
- How did it feel not to be able to touch your guides?
- What was going on for the guides?
- How did you communicate with each other? What did you learn about communication?
- Did you notice any "status" difference between the guides and the puzzle makers? Was there collaboration between the guides and the puzzle makers?
- What causes distrust among groups like these? Do you ever notice this at school?
- Did you learn anything about trust, respect, and cooperation?



- Can you think of any ways to bring what you learned into your daily life?

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