

The Power of Collaboration

Title: Sticks & Stones Challenge

Skill focus (gender based difference): Communication, Team Dynamics

Description:

In phase one, a group of four team members must work together to build a structure. In phase 2, they need to duplicate one that has already been built (by someone else) by testing communication skills. The team must work together in their different roles to build the structure closest to the one they are assigned.

Supporting Material:

1. A bag of 60-80 selected items (two bags /team).
2. A non-transparent box to contain the structure.
3. The tables are set up with pre-assigned roles. One woman at the table is an Explainer & one is a Messenger. One man is a Builder & one is an Explainer.
4. Instruction slides, along with takeaway messages that show difference between how men and women communicate.
5. Timer
6. Red and Green Stickers, for group setup seating arrangements.
7. Voting buttons.
8. Scoring sheet to calculate the winner.

Group set up:

80 attendees: 20 tables: 4 per table.

Table No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Men	1	3	2	4	0	1	3	2	4	0	1	3	2	4	0	1	3	2	4	0
Women	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	2	0	4

Instructions:

There will be two phases in this challenge:

2. Once people start arriving instruct the women to sit at seats marked with a green sticker, and men to sit at seats marked with a red sticker.
3. If there are tables that are missing, ask people to complete the tables in order for each team to have eight participants. Once everyone is seated, the facilitator can start.

Phase 1:

4. Give each team one bag of materials and one box. Instruct them to build any kind of structure they wish without modifying the pieces. (For example, they cannot bend or break toothpicks.) Remind them to keep their structures away from the view of the other teams. Encourage creativity.
5. After five minutes, have each team put their structure into their box. Each team assigns one member as the Explainer, who in turn will carry their team's box to the front table and place it at one of the chairs. The Explainers are then to choose a box different than their team's box to sit in front of.

Phase 1 Rule:

- You must use a minimum of 15 items, not including the tape.

Phase 2:

1. Of the remaining three team members, assign two members as messengers, and one as a Builder. Give each Builder another bag of materials. The Builder's job is to build a new structure identical to the model their Explainer has selected. They will do this with the information that the Messenger brings to them. The Explainer must tell the Messenger what the design looks like, including the color of the pieces.

Phase 2 Rules:

- Only the Explainer can view the model; not the Messenger or the Builder.
- Only the Builder can touch the new structure or the raw materials.
- Only the Messenger can speak to the Explainer or the Builder.
- The Builder can ask the Messenger questions but cannot speak to the Explainer.
- Messengers can keep going back and forth as much as necessary.
- The Messengers must take turns going to the Explainer, and one cannot go to the Explainer until the other has completed communication with the Builder (no overlap of Messenger activities). The Messengers cannot speak to each other and once a Messenger has started communication with the Builder, the other can no longer communicate with the Builder until they visit the Explainer again. Messengers on every team should trade places between the Explainer and Builder simultaneously. This way, each cannot benefit from hearing the conversations of the other.

Time break down:

Action	Time (minutes)
Explanation of Phase 1	10
Building Structure	5
Move structures to the front and change places	5
Explain phase 2	5
Questions	5
Phase 2 – build second structure	10
Takeaways & scoring – includes keypads	10
Winner	5
Total	55

How do we decide who wins- Points

Action	Points
Not using 15 items	-5 points
Using 3 items that are the same	+5 points
Using the same 6 items	+10 points
Getting the colors right	+2 for each item correct color

Volunteer Roles:

No	Action	Volunteer Role	Note
1	After facilitator explains instructions	Ensure everyone at the table understands what they need to do in Phase 1.	Focus on <u>creativity</u> , and using at least 15 items)
2		Give the team one envelope with the table number on it.	Do not give them the equipment before the facilitator gives to the signal, in the past they always start and don't listen.
3	At the end of Phase 1 facilitator asks the teams to stop	Help your team, put their structure in the box, and move it to the table set up at the front of the room and wait in front of it.	
4	Points calculation	Check if team used 15 items and input points on sheet.	
5	Facilitator asks each team to move their structure to the front of the room and sit in front of it.	Make sure the participant sits in front of their structure.	
6	The facilitator explains the session and asks if everyone is happy with their role within the rules.		
7	At the start of Phase 2	Take the packs from the chairs and give them to the tables.	Wait until the facilitator gives the signal to do so.
8	Facilitator explains Phase 2	Just watch and enjoy 😊 make sure no one is cheating and rules are followed. Stand next to the explainer and make sure the messengers don't look inside the box	
9	After the session ends	Add up the points per the table and fill up attached sheet	
10	Winning team announced	Get up the front and be in the picture with them	

Thank you for your help 😊

Scoring sheet:

Team Number: _____

Task	Points
Not using 15 items	-5 points
Using 3 items that are the same	+5 points
Using the same 6 items	+10 points
Getting the colors right	+2 for each item correct color
Total	