ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Time: 20 minutes

Objectives: By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Present basic principles for communication.
- Demonstrate verbal & non-verbal facilitation skills.

Training Method: Dyad Activity

In This Activity You Will…

- Explain the activity (2 minutes)
- Conduct the activity in pairs/dyads (10 minutes)
- Discuss the activity and its relevance for effective peer interactions (8 minutes)

Materials:

- Paper (enough for each dyad to have one sheet)
- Thin markers (enough for each dyad to have one)
- Pairing method (plastic farm animals—five different animals, two of each type)
- Handouts- Activity image (enough for each dyad to have one)

Preparation: Make copies of handout.

Instructions

1. Explain the activity. We’re going to get into pairs in a few minutes and do an activity where Partner #1 will describe an image to Partner #2. Partner #2 will then need to reproduce this image.

2. State the rules of the activity. There are three rules: Partner #1 and #2 cannot face each other; Partner #1 can give the rules only once; and Partner #2 cannot ask for any clarification.

3. Divide the group into pairs with plastic farm animals (5 different animals, 2 of each type). Ask participants to get a book or something to write on and find their partners by matching farm animals.

4. Once everyone is in pairs, instruct the group to form a line, back to back: Partner #1 facing one wall and Partner #2 facing the other wall. [Note: Participants may sit or stand in this line. If chairs are used, facilitator will need to provide additional instructions for participants to bring chairs to the area.]

5. Hand the people facing one wall (Partner #1) a handout with the image. Emphasize that the other person (Partner #2) cannot view this sheet.

6. Hand Partner #2 a blank sheet of paper and a marker.

7. Ask Partner #1 to describe the picture to Partner #2 so that she/he can reproduce the drawing on his/her sheet of paper.

8. Repeat the three rules:

   - Partner #1 and #2 cannot face each other.
   - Partner #1 can give the rules only once.
   - Partner #2 cannot ask for any clarification.

9. Allow 10 minutes for this activity. Circulate to be sure people are following the instructions.

* This module comes from Duke University, Partners in Caring; Center for Creative Education, 2006.
BACK-TO-BACK DRAWINGS

TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

• Communication needs to be specific.
• Don’t assume people know what you’re talking about.
• Body language helps check for understanding.
• It’s important to break the big picture into “smaller” pieces so people have successes.
• Questions help both parties—it’s helpful to ask and allow questions.

10. After 10 minutes, ask the group to come back together and discuss what they observed.

Summary

Summarize the activity with the following questions:

• Who was successful?
• How did participants feel in their respective roles?
• What was the most frustrating aspect?
• What were the specific methods you used to accomplish the task?
• How does this exercise relate to interviewing peers?

*This module is part of the online toolkit Building Blocks to Peer Success. For more information, visit http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit. This module comes from Duke University, Partners in Caring; Center for Creative Education, 2006.