

Diversity Activities

Bias Card Game

Objectives

1. To identify ways that bias leads to inclusion or exclusion and can contribute to other forms of discrimination.
2. To describe feelings and behaviors associated with inclusion and exclusion.

Time

10 minutes

Materials

One deck of cards with all face cards removed. Make sure you have enough cards for each participant to have one.

Instructions

1. Write on the board: 8, 9, 10 – accepted group; 2, 3, 4 – unaccepted group; 5, 6, 7 – belong nowhere, in the middle.
2. Hand out one card to each participant. **Participants should NOT look at their card or tell others what number they have.**
3. Participants place the cards on their foreheads, number side out, and hold them there. No peeking!
4. Explain to the participants that the number on their card determines the group they are in. Participants who are an 8, 9 or 10 will be in the accepted group, the “in crowd.” Those who are a 2, 3, or 4 will be in the unaccepted group. Those who are a 5, 6, or 7 belong to neither group; they are somewhere in the middle.
5. During the game, players will move around the room looking for the in crowd – when they see an 8, 9, or 10 – they can say “hi”.
6. Players can only say “hi” back when they see that the person greeting them is an 8, 9, or 10. Keep all other talking to a minimum.
7. If the person who says “hi” to them is a 2, 3, or 4, they should turn their back on that player and ignore him/her.
8. If the person who says “hi” to them is a 5, 6, or 7, they can choose to accept or ignore that player.
9. When everyone understands the instructions, have players begin moving around the room.
10. Let the game go on for 3-5 minutes. You should see the 8’s, 9’s, and 10’s begin to form a group, with 2’s, 3’s, and 4’s standing off to the side or forming smaller groups. The 5’s, 6’s and 7’s will

probably be mixed, with some being accepted by the popular group and some remaining on the fringes.

11. When the groups have formed, stop the game.
12. Ask everyone who believes they were an 8, 9, or 10 to raise their hands. Do this for the other two groups.
13. Have participants look at their card and see if they guessed their number correctly.

For Discussion

1. What do you think the point of this game is?
2. How did you feel during the game?
3. Have you ever felt excluded in real life? Explain.
4. How did it feel to be included or accepted?
5. How did it feel to be excluded and ignored?
6. What are some reasons we exclude people?
7. When some people are excluded, what are the disadvantages to the one excluded? What are the disadvantages to the group doing the excluding?
8. What are the benefits of including others?