



Exploring Leadership

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS: PARTNERSHIPS

A partnership is a relationship in which two or more people work together toward a shared goal. Strong partnerships allow people to combine their strengths, ideas, and efforts. By working together, partners can often accomplish more than they could alone.

CONVERSATION STARTER:

Can you think of a time when someone helped you accomplish something you couldn't have done as easily on your own? What happened?

Partnerships are built on trust, communication, and cooperation. Successful partners listen to one another, share responsibilities, and work toward a common goal. Strong partnerships help people support each other, solve problems, and overcome challenges more effectively.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the value of partnerships.
- Recognize how working together leads to greater success.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Five 3-foot ropes tied into circles
- Small supplies to collect (candy, bean bags, blocks, plastic cups, or other small objects)
- Open activity space
- Stopwatch or timer

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

In this activity, participants will discover how partnerships can help people accomplish more than they could alone.

- Place a 3-foot rope circle on the floor for each group, spread apart from the other groups. Each circle represents a group's home base. Place an equal number of "supplies" inside each rope circle.
- Divide participants into groups and assign each group a home base.
- Explain that the goal is to collect as many supplies as possible before time runs out. Participants may collect supplies from other groups' home bases, but they may only carry one supply at a time. Supplies may not be thrown, slid, rolled, or passed. Each supply must be carried back to the home base.
- Give groups 1 minute to gather supplies from other groups. When time is up, count the supplies in each home base.
- For the next round, groups may move their home base rope anywhere in the activity area.
- Allow groups a few moments to discuss and reposition their home base if they choose. Then play another 1-minute round.
- Continue for one or more additional rounds, allowing groups time to discuss and adjust their strategy between rounds.
- Facilitator Note: If participants do not discover it on their own, suggest that groups combine or overlap home bases. (Hint: The more groups that partner together, the more supplies they can access and collect.)
- Allow groups time to form partnerships and play another round.
- Compare results from each round and discuss how partnerships, cooperation, and shared resources affected the outcome.

FACILITATION TIPS:

- Allow participants to discover solutions on their own before offering suggestions.
- Focus on what participants learned about partnerships rather than who collected the most supplies.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- At what point did your group realize working with others might be beneficial?
- How did partnerships change the outcome of the activity?
- What resources or opportunities became available when groups partnered together?
- What challenges were easier to overcome once groups began partnering together?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- What are some examples of partnerships in everyday life?
- What qualities help create strong partnerships?
- How can partnerships help people reach goals more effectively?
- How can building strong partnerships help you achieve future goals?



CONCLUSION:

Partnerships can be found in schools, families, communities, sports teams, businesses, and organizations. Successful partnerships are built on trust, communication, cooperation, and mutual benefit. When people share their strengths and resources, they create opportunities that may not be possible on their own.

Strong partnerships help people achieve goals, solve problems, and create opportunities that would be difficult to accomplish alone. Learning how to build positive partnerships can help people become more effective leaders, teammates, and members of their communities.

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REFERENCES

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