Inside Outside Circles

Purpose of Activity

This activity helps break the ice in new groups and allows participants to get to know each other. It also gives participants an opportunity to recognize and share some of the unique cultural characteristics of their families.

Skills Developed

- Communication
- Listening

Room Set-Up

- Move tables and chairs out of the way so that you have space for participants to stand in a circle.
- Place flip chart where everyone can see it.

Instructions

1. Break participants up into two groups, forming one circle within another, with inside and outside circles facing each other.

2. Provide verbal directions and written ones on flip charts. Ask participants to introduce themselves to the person they are facing and then share the answer to the question posed by the facilitator.

3. On your cue, have one circle move by 3 or some other number and face a new partner. Introduce again and answer another question.

4. Repeat the process 4 to 5 times. When done, have them return to one large group.

Suggested Questions

1. What languages do you speak?

2. What music do you listen to? What dances do you know?

3. What foods do you eat at home or with extended family?

4. In your family, what is considered polite and what is considered rude? What manners have you been taught?

5. What do you wear on special occasions?

6. How often do you see your extended family? What role do they play in your life?

7. What holidays and ceremonies are important in your family?

8. Describe something very important to you. It could be a person, such as your parent, sibling, or friend. It could be a hobby or a goal, such as going to college or designing a website.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you learn about people during the activity?

2. What differences did you note?

Time

- 30 minutes

Materials

- Flip chart
- Markers

Facilitator Tips

This activity is an excellent prelude to the next three activities: Diversity Wheel, My View of the World, and Interplanetary Impressions.

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