

TEAM LEADERSHIP PROBLEM

16. IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

Theme: Communication Skills

Estimated Time: 25-30 minutes

Resources Required: Deck of cards (minus the jokers)

Activity Description and Step-by-Step Instructions:

Teams need to learn to communicate without words. This exercise helps teams to learn communication with body language.

Arrange the group in a large circle facing each other. Thoroughly shuffle the deck of cards and have every participant pick a card. Instruct everyone that they cannot show their card to anyone else and that they cannot speak during the exercise.

Explain that everyone must use nonverbal communication (no speaking or writing) and try to group together by suit (clubs, hearts, spades and diamonds). They cannot show their card to anyone. Start the activity and end when successful or after 10 minutes, whichever comes first.

If unsuccessful, have everyone re-form in one large circle and let them know that they can show their card to only two people and try again. Start the activity and end when successful or ten minutes, whichever comes first.

Discussion Questions:

What did we just do?

What did you learn?

What were some leadership concepts learned from this exercise?

How can these leadership concepts be applied outside this activity?