

Inspire! Ice Breakers & Openers



Activity: Rapid Digits

Overview

Rapid Digits explores the realm of group synergy. Small teams of three or four people struggle to collectively show eleven fingers. Each attempt begins with both players hands behind their backs. Then, with a silent countdown, the players reveal their hands with any number of fingers raised. The group then counts the total number of fingers to determine if they add to eleven. Groups continue until they reach the magic number eleven.

Props

- None.

Instructions

- Divide your team into groups of three or four participants.
- From this point they must remain absolutely quiet. Complete silence is necessary to allow space for concentration as well as to make the task more challenging.
- The task is for each group to reveal a total of eleven fingers, regardless of the combination.
- Participants place their hands behind their backs, and when ready, reveal any number of raised fingers.
- The group adds all raised fingers. If the number of combined fingers is not eleven, the group tries again to work out the problem without talking.
- When participants are successful, form new subgroups. As participants join a new group each, they bring with them a set of rules from the previous team that helped them achieve eleven raised fingers.
- Without being able to talk, how did they communicate intentions? How creative were they in coming up with a solution? What patterns emerged? All of these questions serve as springboards for deeper reflection. Of course, you can always choose to play just for fun!

Variations

Change the number of people in each group. The larger the group, the more difficult the task becomes. You could also change the number from eleven to any number. You can require that participants may show only one hand. You can make things more difficult by telling group members that they may not show the same number of fingers twice in a row.