

Introduction

Project Connect is dedicated to providing cutting-edge teambuilding activities and tools for educators. These activities can be used for exciting teambuilding days and can reinforce everyday moments with both youth and adults!

Project Connect offers the following products:

Toobeez

Toobeez are the incredible construction tubes used to build and create the activities for your group! A one-of-a-kind construction system, Toobeez give you the chance to "connect" as a group while engaging everybody in constructive play. Toobeez are a hands-on, easy-to-assemble and safe product that captivates the imagination of anyone who uses them. You can use them indoors or outdoors to hold a powerful teambuilding experience anytime!



Each 57 Piece Toobeez Kit contains: (20) 3.4" spheres, (8) 36" tubes, (8) 24" tubes, (8) 16" tubes, (8) 11" tubes, (1) GIANT Toobeez storage bag, (2) red slide-on curtain panels, & (2) blue slide-on curtain panels. Shipping box is 36" x 12" x 6" and weighs 21 lbs.



Activity Workbooks

The *Toobeez Teambuilding Activity Workbook* includes 25 detailed lesson plans with safety reminders, helpful hints, procedures, debriefing questions and more to build and develop the communication and teambuilding skills of your group. Other available workbooks include Math, Science, Language Arts, Physical Education and Occupational Therapy.

Multimedia Training CD

This CD is based on the award-winning book by Tom Heck entitled *The Official Toobeez Team Building Games Activity Guide*. This CD contains all of the information found in the guide plus video clips, audio interviews and other special bonus features. Purchase your CD today at www.teachmeteamwork.com.



ACTIVITY

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ROBOT WRITER



Objectives

- Collaborate with team members to write a message using the “robot writer”
- Communicate with others to synchronize movements
- Work cooperatively toward a common goal
- Participate in a group conversation to process and evaluate the experience

Preparation

Character Focus

Cooperation

Time: 1 minute

Materials: 1 Toobeez set
tape
1 marker
1 large piece of paper
chart paper (optional)

Setup:

1. Build a “robot writer” (refer to photo). You may need masking tape to secure the marker.
2. Tape a piece of paper to the floor.

Activity Plan

Group Size: 2 – 8

Time: 5 – 15 minutes

Mental Intensity: 2

Physical Intensity: 1

Space: Minimal

The Challenge

The group must use the “robot writer” to write a word on a piece of paper.

Safety Reminders!

Appropriate caution is important to conduct these activities in a safe manner. Be sure to review these reminders prior to beginning the activity, and if necessary, share reminders with the group during the activity.

- Follow general safety procedures

Helpful Hints!

- Use a bigger piece of paper than you see in the photos. Bigger paper helps prevent the group from writing on the floor
- Use water-based markers (non-permanent ink markers)

Activity Instructions

1. Circle up the group, and share the following storyline.

You are a team of genetic engineers working to discover a new way to produce rice to help end world hunger. The rice must be easy to grow, insect resistant, organic (grown without pesticides), nutritious and totally healthy. To work on this new rice seed, you must operate mechanical arms while deciphering the genetic code of this new “super food” (to the average person it will look like you are writing words). By working together smoothly and efficiently, you will be able to end world hunger.

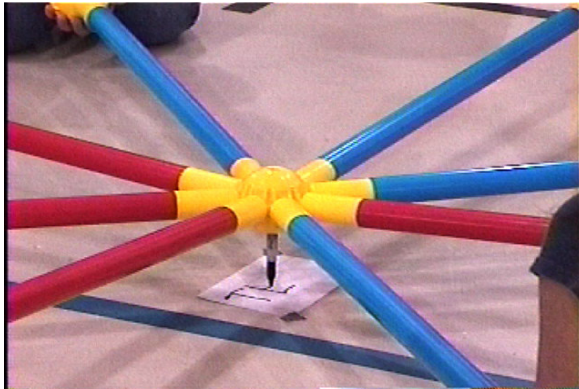
Robot Writer

2. Read aloud the following Activity Challenge Box to the group.

Challenge: The group must use the “robot writer” to write a word on a piece of paper. Follow the guidelines below:

- The robot must be held by the ball at the end of the tube
- The robot writer may not be altered
- If any guidelines are broken, the group must begin again

3. To begin the activity, have participants first work through the Problem-Solving Sequence (refer to page 152 for the six sequence steps).
4. Have the group create something with their “robot writer.” They can: A) write the word TEAM, B) draw a smiley face, C) draw a figure eight, or D) anything else!
5. If participants get stuck, have the students circle up again. Use questions to help guide the group back on track, but do not provide the participants with answers. Allow them to work together.
6. If your group is still struggling OR if you feel your group would benefit from an additional challenge, present a variation provided on the next page.
7. After the activity, move to the “Activity Discussion and Processing” section of the activity.



See page 6 for available
teambuilding training
options!

Activity Variations

1. Increasing the difficulty.

To make this activity more challenging, create a robot writer with long arms, do not allow verbal communication or require use of the non-dominant hand.

2. Follow the maze.

Create a maze on a piece of paper (like the kind in children's books). Have the group make the robot writer marker follow the correct pathway through the maze.

3. Make geometry.

Draw different shapes as a team, such as triangles, squares or a figure 8.

4. The leader.

Everyone on the team closes their eyes except one. This person is allowed to keep their eyes open for one minute and will direct the team. At the end of one minute, they close their eyes and someone else on the team opens their eyes for one minute. Rotate this responsibility so everyone has a turn to direct the team.

5. A real challenge.

When working with a more sophisticated group, ask them to draw out the school logo. Provide them with all the colored markers they need. This logo becomes their "deliverable" and you become the customer. Provide them with a short time frame to accomplish everything. At the end of this time frame, they must deliver a presentation

Activity Notes

Acknowledgments

I first learned this activity from Jim Cain,
co-author of *Teamwork & Teamplay*.

Activity Discussion and Processing

Discussion Topic: Teamwork/Cooperation

In the storyline, the participants are a group of scientists working to create a food source to end world hunger. This is an excellent activity to talk about the world of science and the role teamwork plays in it.

Discussion Questions

- Individuals working alone can often solve small challenges. However, large challenges are usually solved by groups of people working together. Explain why this is true
- When a team finds a solution to a problem, who should take the credit? Should it be the leader of the team?
- To successfully solve this challenge, your team had to work in harmony. The word “harmony” is usually used when talking about or describing music. How is a team that works well together like beautiful music?

Motivator

In the storyline, the team was asked to work on deciphering a “genetic code.” The word “genetic” is mentioned in the following quotes.

- What are these people saying?
- What do their quotes have to do with your team?

“The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born - that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That’s nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born.” - *Warren G. Bennis*

“The one process now going on that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us.” - *Edward O. Wilson*