

Children's Connection Curriculum

Session Topic: Social Skills/Interactions – Peer/Peer (Straw Tower)

Developmental Level: Elementary or Middle School

Purpose: To show teamwork by working with others to complete a task and by being involved in a group decision-making process.

Materials Needed: Drinking straws, Paper clips, String, Pipe cleaners, Scissors

Description of Session: Provide the group with a pile of straws, paper clips, pipe cleaners, scissors, and a ball of string. Inform the group that their task is to use the materials that they have been given to build a tower that is as tall as possible without it falling over. Give the group a time limit to complete the task.

For added incentive, have more than one team and challenge them to build the tallest tower.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did your group get started with this project?
2. Did everyone agree on how the tower should be built? If not, how was a decision made?
3. What part did you take in the decision-making?
4. Do you usually follow what others say or do you attempt to get others to do what you want? Why? What is usually the end result of this process?
5. What are some good ways for a group of people to make decisions together?
6. Why is it important for you to be able to work with others and to make decisions as a member of a group?

Reference: 104 Activities the Build by Alanna Jones, p. 36-37