



Team Builders

Eight ways to get into groups

- Individual
- Pairs
- Small group
- Whole group

Uses: To get into groups.

Resources: Various.

Time: 5-10 minutes per activity.

What to do:

1. Something in common?

Ask the participants to get into different groups by finding someone with the same:

- eye colour.
- hair colour.
- clothing.
- favourite food.
- favourite film.
- hobbies, etc.

Variation: Get into groups with people who have different characteristics instead.

2. Numbering off

The participants count off in fours, or fives, or sixes, etc. Split into groups by using the numbers. All the 1s are a team, or 2s and 4s are a team, etc.

You can combine and 're-combine' the numbers in any variety of ways based on the size of the group needed. You might invite the participants to suggest ways of using the numbers.

3. Money, Money, Money

Each person is given a piece of paper, representing a denomination of currency. You could use ready-made play money, or make your own branded currency. The leader calls out amounts of money, e.g "Two pounds and twenty pence!"

The participants have to quickly form groups which add up to the right amount of money.

4. Chocolates

Good for those groups that always sit in the same places!

Before they arrive put a pile of 'variety' chocolates on each table (controlling the numbers of each variety). When the participants arrive, and sit at their regular desks/tables they will spy the chocolates and eat them, leaving the wrappers. Inform the participants that the variety of their treat = the groups they are in! You can only do this once though with each group!

You could also put chocolates or other wrapped sweets in a 'mystery' box which each person draws from to decide the groups.

5. Alphabet Soup

Simply use the participants' names to group them. Use the first or last names and match by letters. - a-f; g-k; l-q, etc. Vary the range to make the size of groups you want. Variations: Use middle names. Give each letter of the alphabet a corresponding value e.g. A=1, B=2 etc. Add up all the letters in the name and then get into groups with numbers of the same range.

6. Two teams

To divide a group into two teams randomly you could form teams by birthdays. For example, "People born on odd days of the month over here, even days of the month over there". Also try the first six months of the year versus the last six months. Spring and winter versus autumn and summer. You could also use signs of the zodiac. Another idea is to ask people, on the count of three to hold up a number of fingers (between one and ten!) Then divide the group by moving all the people holding up an even number of fingers to one side and those with an odd number of fingers to the other.

7. Lolly sticks

Get hold of a bunch of lolly sticks (you can get them from craft suppliers, you don't necessarily have to eat thirty Magnums!), then write a number on the end of each one using permanent marker. Put them number side down in an old jam jar or similar. The participants then choose a number at random. When everyone has chosen, you call out the numbers to be in each team. It could be odd and even or one - six, seven - twelve etc. Variation: Use symbols or colours on the sticks for instant groups. Each participant writes their name on the end of the stick and you can draw random groups.

8. In a Tangle

Get hold of a bunch of Tangles© and pull them apart into separate links. As the participants come into the room they take a piece of Tangle©. Then ask them to form groups of the different colours. e.g. all red, green, yellow etc. Once in the groups they might like to discuss why they chose that particular colour over another.

Points to make:

- Variety is the spice of life! Keep being creative about how you do things – this is great modelling for learners.