

Communication Training

Back-to-Back Drawing

This activity is meant to help people improve and think deeply about their communication skills with their fellow employees. It will also encourage team-building and collaboration.

Time: Varies, 15 – 25 minutes, depends on complexity of images

Materials: Paper, Pens/Markers, Print-outs of the drawings attached to the document below. Print out enough for each pair to have one image.

1. Introduce the game/set-up (5 minutes)

The group must pair up with someone (I would suggest assigning pairs if there's enough time) and then have them to sit back to back with their partners. One person gets a picture of a shape or simple image (see later simple black and white images), and the other gets a piece of paper and pen.

2. The Activity (10 minutes)

Instructions:

- Explain to the group that the person who has the black and white line drawing will describe the drawing to their partners without telling them outright what it is. The person with the pen and paper will attempt to draw it as their partner describes it to them.
- After about ten minutes, have everyone stop and then compare the original to the drawing they made.

3. Debriefing

Questions to ask after the task is completed:

- Why was the activity hard?
 - o What was the hardest part about communicating this way?
- What did it take for the partnerships to navigate the activity successfully?
- For the descriptors:
 - o Was it hard to not just outright tell them what they were drawing?
 - o How specific did you feel you had to be?
 - o Was it hard to have to rely on someone else to get what you were describing correct?
- For the drawers:
 - o Was it challenging to understand what the descriptors were saying?
 - o Did you ever feel lost and like you had to ask clarifying questions?
 - o What were the most helpful things your partner did to help you understand?
- Overall, what did we learn about communication?
 - o Learning to be clear and specific without getting frustrated
 - o Asking clarifying questions to better complete the task
 - o Collaboration and team work were essential to this task, you could not do this by yourself. Learning to rely on others to help accomplish activities.





