

## **I Can, You Can Leadership - Intermediate**

### **Description**

Students will work in pairs to complete an obstacle course or puzzle, while one partner is blindfolded. The other partner will guide the blindfolded student through the challenge by using their communication and leadership skills.

### **Objectives**

- Experience direct leadership roles
- Gain understanding of challenges that can arise during leadership
- Practice problem solving and communication

### **Materials and Supplies**

- 10-20 piece puzzles
- Anything to make an obstacle course out of, which can include but is not limited to:
  - Gym mats
  - Benches
  - Tape
  - Pylons
- Blindfolds/material to use as blindfolds

### **Activity (60 minutes)**

#### **Introduction (5 minutes)**

- Explain the activity to the class:
  - The students will work in pairs, each taking a turn in each role.
  - One member of the team will be the leader, the other the follower.
  - The follower will be blindfolded.
  - The leader is to guide their partner through the course, or to complete the puzzle, using just their voice. Once they are finished they swap, and the former follower now guides the former leader.
- Let students choose partner, or assign them.

#### **Preparation (15 Minutes)**

- Set up obstacle course and puzzle stations (use student volunteers to help set it up). Using the gym will work best. Set it up so that multiple teams can go at once.

#### **Performance (15 Minutes)**

- As the students are guiding their partners through the obstacle course/puzzle, remind them that they need to provide clear directions to their partners.
- Have them form a plan with their partner before they begin.
- As the students experience challenges with guiding their partner through the course, provide guidance to help them problem solve.
- Questions to ask:
  - Do they need to be louder?
  - Are their directions confusing?
- Give students time to practice and figure out how to work through the course or puzzle before stepping in.
- Provide support as necessary, but give them the freedom to experiment different methods of communication and guidance.

### **Synthesize** (10 minutes)

- Once everyone has had a turn to finish, come back together and discuss.
- Questions to ask:
  - How did they overcome challenges as the leader? As the follower?
  - What skills were important in each role? (i.e. listening, patience)
  - What are their thoughts about leadership? (i.e. different aspects of leadership, importance of teamwork/different perspectives in leadership)
  - How do they think inclusion, empathy, confidence, and empowerment can contribute to leadership?
  - How are the students leaders in their day to day lives?
- Explain that leadership is often challenging, and requires good organization and practice.
- Remind students that they are leaders and role models every day, and they can positively impact others by using their leadership skills.