

## **I Can, You Can Teamwork - Advanced**

### **Description**

Students work collaboratively to figure out what coloured shape they have taped to their foreheads and find all of the others who have the same shape. Without speaking, they strategize and work together to achieve a common goal.

### **Objectives**

- Develop effective nonverbal communication skills.
- Use creativity and problem solving to work towards a common objective.
- Develop trust and collaboration with peers.

### **Materials and Supplies**

- Construction paper OR paper and markers
- Tape

### **Set-up**

- Create small paper shapes in varying colours
  - Blue rectangles, green triangles, yellow circles, red diamonds, etc.
  - Make 4-5 per shape depending on the size of the class.
- Attach a loop of tape to each shape
- Cover any mirrors or reflective surfaces in the room
- Make sure students do not have cellphones out

### **Activity (50 minutes)**

#### **Introduction (10 minutes)**

- Introduce the idea of teamwork.
- Try to expand ideas beyond sports teams.
- Questions to ask:
  - Why is teamwork beneficial?
  - What is an example of a situation where teamwork was necessary?
  - How does communication relate to teamwork?
- Explain that the activity will involve problem solving and nonverbal communication skills.
- Explain the challenge to the students.
  - They will get a coloured shape taped to their forehead and they will not know what shape or colour they have.
  - They have to figure out what coloured shape is on their forehead without speaking to anyone.
  - They also have to find everyone who has the same coloured shape as they do.

**Strategizing (10 Minutes)**

- Students have 5-10 minutes to plan their strategy as a class.
- Questions to ask:
  - How can you use each other's strength in order to complete the challenge?
  - If your original plan does not work, what is your alternate plan?
  - What are some important considerations during this activity? (e.g. patience, empathy, trust)
- After the class has figured out a strategy, tape the shapes to the students' forehead. Make sure they don't see what shape or colour they have.

**Challenge (15 minutes)**

- Students enact their strategy.

**Reveal (5)**

- After the students have been given sufficient time to enact their strategy, bring the attention back to the class as a whole.
- Allow the students to see what coloured shape they had and to see if they completed the challenge.

**Synthesize (10 minutes)**

- Review the concept of teamwork.
- Questions to ask:
  - Why is nonverbal communication important? (e.g. body language, different cultures, etc.)
  - How did their strategy play out?
  - Were there conflicting ideas and leaders within the group?
  - Would it have been easier if one student became the leader?
  - Within a team, how do you know when to lead and when to step back and listen?
- Remind students that leadership extends to more than just sports teams. We all have leadership skills that we use in different scenarios day-to-day.