



Project Skills:

- Youth will positively interact with others in a group setting.

Life Skills:

- Social skills

Academic Standards:

- Social Studies E.4.9
Explain how people learn about others who are different from themselves.

Grade Levels: 3-4

Time: 50 minutes

Supplies Needed:

Circle of Friends Activity

- Music CD (with a song about friendship, if possible)
- CD player

Paper Hat Friends Activity

- One newspaper page/child
- Music CD (with a song about friendship, if possible)
- CD player
- Tape
- Crayons (optional)
- Large white paper (instead of newsprint)

BACKGROUND

Having youth interact and get along with each other is vital to a productive group. This session will help youth who do not know each other to interact, have fun together, get to know each other, and see how they are alike and different.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Getting to Know You Circle (10 minutes)

All participants should stand in a circle. The leader will make a statement. Everyone for whom the statement is true will take two steps forward. Youth should observe who has similar responses. Youth then rejoin the circle and the leader makes another statement. Repeat this with about 10 statements, such as these:

- I like chocolate ice cream best.
- I am good at jumping rope.
- I can speak more than one language.
- I do not have any brothers.
- One of my grandparents lives with us.
- One of my favorite foods is potatoes.
- My favorite color is orange.
- I have been camping
- I like to ride a bicycle.
- We have a family pet.
- I like to watch cartoons.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What did this activity show us?
- How are people alike? Different?

Apply:

- How are your friends like you? Different than you?
- Why is it important to realize that people are sometimes alike and sometimes different?

Activity: Circle of Friends (15 minutes)

Participants should form two concentric circles. There should be the same number of youth in the inner and outer circles. While you play music, youth in the outer circle should walk in a clockwise direction, while youth in the inner circle walk in a counter-clockwise direction.

Stop the music at some point in the song and have youth in both circles turn so that they are standing face-to-face with someone in the opposite circle. Ask a question designed to get youth to share information about themselves. Allow each pair approximately one minute to answer the question. Resume playing the music, stopping the song several times so that youth can interact with different partners.

- What is something you are good at?
- What subject do you like in school?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- If you had one wish, what would it be?
- Who is someone special to you? Why?
- What is something you fear? Why?

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What did you learn about others in the group?
- What did you find in common with others in the group?

Apply:

- How does it feel to talk with people you do not know?
- What can you do in school to be more friendly?

Sources:

- Created by Denise Retzleff, 4-H Youth Development Agent, UW-Extension, Fond du Lac County
- *I Will Be Your Friend – Songs and Activities for Young Peacemaker*, Teaching Tolerance, Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama, 2003, Activity #5 (free CD and music book)
- *Missouri 4-H Adventure Club Kindergarten Curriculum*, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1993
- Paper hat instructions: www.theparentsite.com/family/paperhats.htm

Activity: Paper Hat Friends (15 minutes)

Give each child a sheet of newspaper to make a paper hat. (See instructions at the end of this activity plan.) When everyone has made a paper hat, tell them this game is called “Paper Hat Friends” and during the game you will need to keep your hat on your head. You will need to walk around while the music is being played, being careful not to bump into each other.

During the game you won’t be able to pick up your own hat if it falls off your head. When the hat falls off, you will become frozen like a statue. To become unfrozen, one of your friends will have to pick up your hat and put it back on your head. The helping friend may hold onto their own hat while assisting another in replacing the fallen hat. That is the only time you can touch your own hat. Remind the participants that, when the music stops, they should all return to the area where they started the game and sit down. Thank the youth who helped others.

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- How did you show friendship in this game?
- How were you able to be friendly to someone you did not know?
- Did you thank someone who helped you?
- What kind of interactions happened in this activity?

Apply:

- What can you do to be a friend?
- What are some questions you might ask a new student or neighbor so you could get to know each other?
- When getting to know someone, what can you share about yourself ?
- Besides today, when else do we spend time with others? What can we do to spend time with them in a positive way?

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY**Enhance for Older Children:**

In the “Getting to Know You Circle” and “Circle of Friends” activities, the statements might be written on a piece of paper and placed in a hat. Older youth could be allowed to pull them out and read them. You may give a few examples of statements and then ask the youth to generate additional statements.

Simplify for Younger Children:

For the “Paper Hat Friends” activity, instead of using newsprint you could use large sheets of white paper. After the youth do the activity, have them draw a picture or write words on their hat about what makes a good friend. They can share this with their family.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Consider taping the bottom folds on the hats if they do not stay in place.
- If you have younger children in the group, encourage the older youth to assist the younger ones in making the paper hats.
- If you have a larger group, you might divide them into three groups and have them rotate to each activity. In this case you will need to adjust the time of each activity so they are comparable in length.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Team on: 5/05

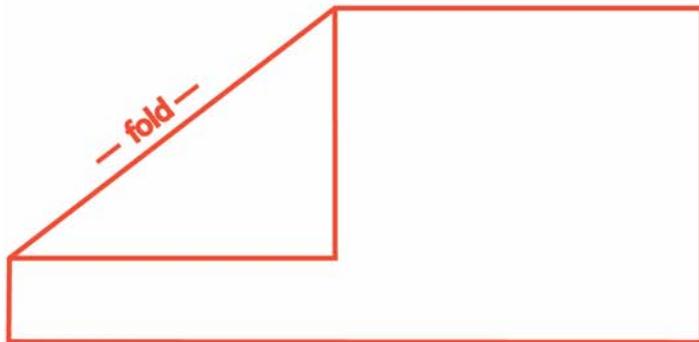
MAKING PAPER HATS

— fold —



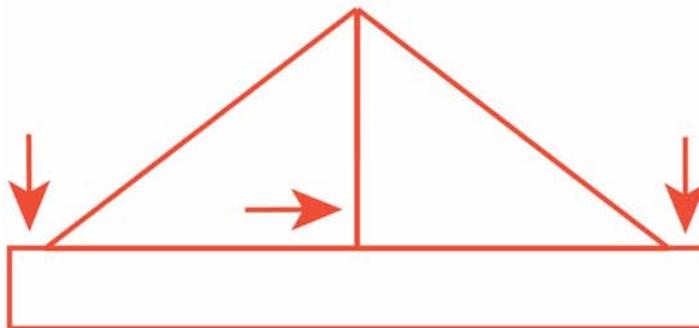
1

Fold a newspaper sheet in half. They usually come that way!



2

Fold both top corners in toward the middle evenly.



3

Fold the bottom up on both sides. Stick small pieces of tape at the arrows to keep the hat together for hours of paper-hat fun!

— fold —

Note: You may have to trim the paper a little if the hat is too big.