LENS Project
Magic Carpet

Ages All Ages, but best suited to younger participants

LENS Skill Negotiation

Why? When working with other people, it is important to share my own ideas and listen to the ideas of others.

Materials A large piece of cloth such as a blanket, sheet, large towel, or a soft rug

Summary

In this imaginative game, participants will work together to flip their “magic carpet” over in mid-air without stepping off! Negotiation skills are key for success here, including collaborating toward a shared goal and hearing ideas from everyone in the group.

Directions

1.) Setup
Lay the cloth out on the floor and have all participants sit carefully on the cloth – make sure nothing is hanging off! Pretend this is a flying carpet, so anything that isn’t on the carpet would fall to the ground.
   • Safety alert: if the cloth or blanket is placed on a hard surface such as a wood or tile floor it may slip or slide. Be careful that no one falls!

2.) Goal Setting
   • One goal of the activity is to flip the carpet over without anyone stepping off. There are many strategies to accomplish this goal.
   • Another goal is to have everyone offer suggestions for how to succeed in the first goal of flipping the carpet. This means making space for everyone to offer problem-solving ideas and listen to others. Reminder, if you are someone who often shares ideas consider “stepping back” and listening while others to share. Likewise, if you are someone who is less comfortable sharing ideas in group settings, consider “stepping up” to offer problem-solving ideas and solutions.

3.) Turn it over!
Participants must now try to flip over their magic carpet without falling off. Perhaps it’s like a flat tire – in order to keep going, this change must be made.

Please contact education@tacomaartslive.org with any questions or to request permission to copy this lesson.
4.) **Challenge Levels**
   - “Raise the stakes” by reminding everyone that they are flying through the air and it’s really dangerous if they fall off!
   - Also consider adding a bit of adventure by telling the participants when a “storm cloud” is coming through, if they need to dodge an airplane, or if a flock of birds goes overhead! Have fun with the imaginative elements of this game! How does everyone pause the game and react to the situation? Another story option is that this is an overturned raft in shark-infested waters, or create your own story!

5.) **Landing**
   Once the magic carpet is successfully turned over, guide participants in for a safe landing back at home. Did all participants work toward the goal of everyone getting a chance to contribute problem-solving ideas and listening to the ideas of others?

6.) **Reflect**
   Discuss or write your thoughts about the following reflection questions.
   - How did you make your voice heard?
   - How did you make space for other voices?
   - How did we make progress and move forward?
   - What skills are we developing in this Activity?
   - Where can you use these skills in the future?

---

**Other ways to Play:**

1. Consider other group goals – perhaps setting a time goal and challenging participants to flip the carpet in a certain amount of time. Once successful, try an even shorter amount of time. Keep the discussion going with each person’s ideas to meet the goal of being heard.

2. Add an acting challenge – each participant can make big character choices and practice staying in character while flipping the carpet. Consider how your character moves and speaks.

Please contact education@tacomaartslive.org with any questions or to request permission to copy this lesson.