

Learning Objective: To allow group members to recognize the basis for relationships and get to know each other

Skill: Making friends

Tell the group:

It's important to be able to get along with many different kinds of people. One of the first steps in the process is getting to know one person at a time. Each bit of information you learn about someone will help you build a relationship with that person.

Children sit in a circle with the facilitator. The facilitator turns to the person on her right, shakes that person's hand, and tells something about herself, either personal or impersonal. For example, she might say, "My name is Ms. Brady. I live in a green house." One child (or the facilitator) is designated as note-taker. On a piece of paper, she writes only the information the person has shared, not the person's name.

The person the facilitator greeted shakes hands with the person on his right, says his name, and again shares something about himself, e.g., "My name is Sandy, and I love chocolate." In turn, each person does the same.

When the end of the circle is reached, children take turns choosing people at random and repeating their names and what they revealed about themselves. For example, Mariel makes eye contact with Sandy and says, "Your name is Sandy and you love chocolate." Sandy then focuses on a person who has not been chosen, and he tells what that person revealed about herself.

The note-taker posts the notes on a wall or bulletin board. The next day, children are given the opportunity to identify whose information each note reveals. For example, one child will read the note that says, "I love chocolate," and say, "That's Sandy. He loves chocolate, and so do I!"