



ACTIVITY: 'CAN I JOIN YOU?'

TIME: 10–15 minutes
SIZE: Groups of four
SPACE: Room to sit and move around
RESOURCES: Action Cards (Group and No.1s)
(pp.64–65 or SenseAbility CD)

NB: You may need to monitor this activity closely to ensure that students do not take the instructions too far. Some students may be sensitive even to simulated rejection.

The aim is to quickly create a situation that impels students to behave in ways that trigger their Sense of Belonging.

The result should be constructive discussion linking thoughts to behaviour and highlighting how important belonging and acceptance are to positive thoughts and feelings.

1. Break the class into smaller groups of four (minimum of three if numbers don't divide evenly). Have students take note of the other people in their group.
2. Allocate each group a letter from the alphabet (i.e. A, B, C, D). Students in each group number off from 1 to 4. Ask all the No.1s to step outside, out of sight and earshot of the remaining group members.
3. Distribute to the groups **inside** their Action Card instructions. These instructions are lettered A, B, C, D, etc. to correspond with each group. Give the inside students adequate time to read and discuss their group approach to the instructions.
4. Go **outside** and give the No.1s their Action Card instructions. Give No.1s time to read and think briefly about their instructions, and then ask them to come back inside and rejoin their original groups.
5. Allow interactions to go on for no longer than a minute.
6. Stop the activity. Commence discussion.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

STILL IN GROUPS OF FOUR:

- What did the No.1s think was happening?
- What were the No.1s, and the other group members, instructed to do?
- How did each student think about the interaction (and consequently feel)?
- Did these feelings conflict with the behaviour instructions on the Action Cards?

WHOLE OF CLASS:

- What were the No.1s thinking and feeling? What were the Number 2s, 3s and 4s thinking and feeling?
- How did the other group members' behaviour affect each group member?
- What did the group consider or do to exclude or include the No.1s?
- How did the interactions affect each member's Sense of Belonging?
- How did individuals feel about the way they had to behave?
- Did different groups with the same scenario behave differently? Were there similar behaviour patterns between groups with different scenarios?
- What are some of the other reasons that people exclude people from groups (e.g. different looks, ethnicity, gender, skills, beliefs)? What are some mechanisms that groups use to exclude others (e.g. words, behaviours, reduced access to valued things)?
- What kinds of groups exclude others?
- When, if ever, is it acceptable to exclude others? Why/why not? When is it definitely not acceptable to exclude others?