



ACTIVITY: 'THE STRAW IN THE GLASS'

TIME: 10–15 minutes
SIZE: Groups of six or seven
SPACE: For small, standing circles
RESOURCES: Instructions (p.88 or SenseAbility CD)

The aim is to have students learn about the importance of trust between group members.

The result should be an understanding that groups can offer protective environments for their members.

1. Note: Facilitators must read detailed instructions before starting.
2. Break the class into groups of around six.
3. Have the groups form circles in accordance with the instructions.
4. One at a time, every group member is going to get a chance to be the 'straw' (upright, eyes closed, body stiff) being gently moved around the inside of the 'glass' (the circle of his/her group members, arms outstretched to catch them and pass them around to other group members).
5. After everyone has had at least one turn as the 'straw', come together as a class for discussion.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- What did students think and feel when they were cared for as the 'straw'?
- How much effort did it take on everyone's part to keep the straw moving? How much easier/harder would it be if the group were smaller or larger?
- Why is it important for the 'straw' to trust the group? What happens if he/she doesn't surrender to the groups' hands?
- What would happen if one of the 'glass' members failed to do what the group and the 'straw' expected of him/her?
- What happens when a group member fails to do what is expected? What are the consequences?
- In wider life, what groups do we place our trust in, in whole or in part? How do they earn our trust? What are our obligations in turn?