



INSTANT CHALLENGE



EARLY LEARNING PRACTICE SET

2019-20 Challenge Season

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ISLAND RESCUE

Task-Based

Challenge (Read Aloud)

Build a device to rescue a character who is stranded on a deserted island! Your team should stay behind the taped line when using your device to rescue the character. Try to move the character across the taped line. If a team member touches the character before it crosses the taped line, your Adult Leader will return the character to the island and you can try again!

Materials

- 6 Chenille Sticks (Pipe Cleaners)
- 1 Envelope
- 10 Mailing Labels
- 3 Pieces of Paper
- 3 Paper Clips
- 1 Paper Cup
- 1 Plastic Sandwich Bag
- 6ft (1.8m) of Rope
- 10ft (3.05m) of String

Your team will also have a pair of scissors, but these may not be part of the device and may not be damaged.

Adults

Tape a 2ft x 2ft (60cm x 60cm) square on the floor to represent the island. Place a small plastic figure or doll within the taped square. Tape a line on the floor 4ft (1.2m) away from the square. Give the team 5 minutes to create the device and then 2 minutes to rescue the character.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. How did your team work together to move the character across the taped line?
2. Which was the most useful material? Which materials were not as useful? How could you have used them differently?
3. If the taped line was farther away from the island, how would your device need to change?

MAKE IT MOVE

Task-Based

Challenge (Read Aloud)

Use the materials to create a device that will move a balloon from the start line to the finish line. Make sure you move the balloon without your body touching it, even if the balloon falls off the table!

Materials

- 6in (15cm) of Painter's Tape
- 2 Paper Cups
- 1 Piece of Paper
- 12in (30cm) of Yarn
- 4 Straws

Adults

Make sure to have at least 2 inflated balloons in case one pops. Give the team 5 minutes to create the device and 1 minute to move the balloon. Tape a start line and a finish line on a table. The lines should be 3ft (90cm) apart. If the team is successful, you could increase the distance between the lines, have the team complete the Instant Challenge again without one of the materials, or have the team move the balloon back and forth as many times as possible within the 1-minute time limit.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. Why did you choose the materials you used?
2. Did your balloon fall off the table? How did your team members work together to move it back to the table without touching it?
3. How would your solution change if you needed to move a baseball instead of a balloon?

BUILDING A BRIDGE

TASK-BASED

Challenge (Read Aloud)

A bridge has fallen down and you need to make a new one. How will you do it? Make the bridge so that the road (a piece of paper) can hold things on top of it. Have fun!

Adults

Place two small boxes or other flat items on a table about 12in (30cm) apart. Provide 2 rulers or pencils and some small items: plastic cars, people, etc. Also have a piece of sturdy paper or cardboard about 3in (3.6cm) wide by at least the length of the span of the bridge to be the road surface when the bridge is built. Give the team members 10 minutes to build their bridge and place the “road” surface on top. Allow another 3 minutes for them to place items on the bridge.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. Why do we build bridges?
2. What might make a bridge fall down?
3. What was the hardest part about building your bridge?

A STORY IN A BAG

Performance-Based

Challenge (Read Aloud)

Tell a team-created story based on surprise items you select from a bag. Decide the order in which your team members will tell the story. The first team member should reach into the bag and select a surprise item. They will begin to tell a story that includes the item or something about the item. Each team member will take a turn selecting an item and adding to the story. Make sure that all items are included in the story in some way. Try to use the items in new and different ways.

Materials

- Bag to Store Props
- Kitchen Towel
- Paper Cup
- Ball
- Stuffed Animal
- Party Hat
- Funnel
- Plastic Bottle

Adults

Give the team 1 minute to determine the order in which the team members will tell the story and then 5 minutes to select items and tell the story. Encourage team members to be good listeners so they can add to the story when it is their turn. Say “Next” when it is time for a new storyteller to begin. Try to give each team member an equal amount of time to add to the story. If there are more than 7 team members, you may need to collect more items for the bag.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. How did the surprise items change the story?
2. How else could you have used the surprise items in your story? How would this have changed the story?
3. Did listening to other team members make it easier to add to the story?

TRIP TO THE MOON

PERFORMANCE-BASED

Challenge (Read Aloud)

Pretend you are going to the moon and can take only 3 things with you. Act it out!

Adults

Give the team members 6 minutes to plan their performance and 2 minutes to act it out.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. Why did you bring these things?
2. What would it look like on the moon?
3. What would it feel like on the moon?

FROM HERE TO THERE

PERFORMANCE-BASED

Challenge (Read Aloud)

How many ways can you move from one place to another? Take turns moving from one line to the other. Each of your team members must move in a different way.

Adults

Give the team members 2 minutes to plan and 5 minutes to move from one taped line to another.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. Was it hard to come up with different ways to move?
2. How did you use your body in different ways to move from one line to the other?
3. Did your team members take turns moving from one line to the other?

GREETINGS!

PERFORMANCE-BASED

Challenge (Read Aloud)

You have 5 minutes to plan and 3 minutes to perform as many ways as possible to greet someone or say “Hello.”
You can use words, actions, facial expressions, or anything else your team chooses!

Adults

Give the children 5 minutes to plan and 3 minutes to perform their greetings.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. Why is it important to greet other people?
2. Why do you think there are so many different ways to greet someone?
3. How would you greet someone who speaks a different language?

COSTUME PARTY!

Task- and Performance-Based

Challenge (Read Aloud)

Your team is going to a team costume party! Each team member needs their own costume, but all of the costumes need to be alike in some way. Once you have made your costumes, create and present a skit that shows 2 fun activities that your team will do during the party.

Materials

- Colored Paper
- Sets of Markers
- 1 Roll of Duct Tape
- 12 Chenille Sticks (Pipe Cleaners)
- 10 Cotton Balls
- 10 Craft Sticks
- Old Clothing or Costume Pieces
- 3 Party Hats
- 10 Plastic Cups
- 10ft (3.05m) of Ribbon
- 1 Roll of Toilet Paper
- 2 Wiffle Balls

Adults

Give the team 10 minutes to create the costumes and plan the skit. Then give the team 3 minutes to present the skit.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. How did you decide what costumes to create?
2. What do your team's costumes have in common?
3. What are some other things you might do at a costume party?

TOY ADVENTURE

Task- and Performance-Based

Challenge (Read Aloud)

Pretend your toys have come to life! Tell a story about the adventure they have together. Draw pictures to help tell your story. Your story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Materials

- Toys (at least 1 per team member)
- Paper (at least 1 piece per team member)
- Crayons or Markers

Adults

Give the team 8 minutes to plan the story and draw pictures and 2 minutes to tell the story. Make sure to remind team members to take turns as they tell the story.

Processing Questions (Read Aloud)

1. How did your team decide what adventure your toys would have?
2. How did your pictures help to tell your story?
3. How did your team work together to plan your story?