

BLOCK UP

BRIEF FOR FACILITATORS

Key Themes	Communication and Teamwork
Participants	Six per team (others can be observers)
Timings	30 minutes plus review
Materials Required	Lego bricks (or something similar) to enable towers to be built as per instructions below.

Overview

Great communication activity that proves that sometimes everyone is right!

Running the activity

Participants must build a shared tower using the building blocks provided. Each member of the team is working from their own instructions that the others are not aware of. They cannot talk throughout the activity. The instructions should be placed on a separate piece of paper for each participant and should either be from the list below or variations on the same theme.

- Person 1: Your tower must be fourteen storeys high
- Person 2: Your tower must be built with blue and white blocks
- Person 3: Your tower must be built with blue, white and red blocks
- Person 4: Your tower must contain at least 20 blocks
- Person 5: Only you may build the tower
- Person 6: The third row of your tower must be blue

The Rules:

- Participants must not share their instructions with each other at any point.
- Participants must not talk throughout the activity.

Suggested Review Questions

- Have the team rate their effectiveness on a 1-10 scale (1 meaning you didn't work well together, 10 meaning you were extraordinary). They should then comment on their ratings.
- How did they communicate?
- Were there any leaders throughout the activity?
- What difficulties did they face?
- What frustrations, if any, were there?
- How did they feel throughout the activity?
- What worked? What didn't work?
- What would they do differently next time?