

Gotchya Activity

Intended age group: Elementary through High School

Time Needed: 15 minutes

Learning objectives: To illustrate that people will often make decisions before listening to all information. Teaches responsibility for one's reactions to situations and pre-conceived ideas.

Materials needed: None

Overview:

Form two circles – one inner, one outer – of approximately the same size. Participants stand with their arms out to their sides, left hands palm-up and right index fingers pointing down and touching on top of their neighbors' outstretched palms.

Leader says: "I am going to say a number of words. When I say the word 'CHARACTER,' do two things. Grab the finger in your left hand, and prevent your right finger from being grabbed. Let's practice. I'll count "1 – 2 – 3," and then I will say the words."

"1- 2- Th..." Make it sound like you are going to say, "three," then say, "Think about this. Three! -- CHARACTER" (How many people moved on three?) The trick is dramatizing the "Go" word. When you build up suspense, most participants will jump the gun, adding to the fun.

"This time I won't count to three. Instead, I will say different words but you have to listen. Don't go until I say 'CHARACTER.' Okay, ready? -- CHARACTER!"

"Let's do it again: Ready? Ethics. Honesty. Respect. CHARACTER!"

"You have to listen carefully. Ready? Responsibility Citizenship Respect Caring CHARACTER!"

"One last time, but this time wait until you hear the word Kindness. Ready: Honesty. Fairness. Caring. Character. Kindness."

Then you can transition to talking about assumptions, temptation, and related concepts.