



Center for Leadership & Educational Equity

The Right Family

Developed by Kieve LDI.

Purpose

To stress the importance of active listening and to illustrate barriers to active listening

Materials

The story of the Right family, and one passable object per participant

Process

1. Have the players stand in a circle.

Explain to them that every time they hear the word “right”, they are to pass the object in their hands to the right. Every time they hear the word “left”, they are to pass the object in their hands to the left. Practice a few times so people get the hang of the idea.

2. Read the following story to the players:

This is the story of the Right family. Last night, the Right family went to see a baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins. They left the house at six o'clock, right after the family finished dinner. Mr. Right drove everyone to the game in the red family van, which is always parked on the left side of the garage. In the van were Mrs. Right, Bobbie Right, Katie Right, and Joey Right. As they drove down the street, Mrs. Right waved to Lisa, their neighbor, who lives two houses down on the left. She was watering her garden on the right side of her house. As the right family approached Fenway Park, Mr. Right exclaimed, “I can't remember where I left the tickets!” Joey Right said, “Dad, I saw you put them in your right hand pocket.” Mr. Right checked, but they were not there. Katie said, “No Dad, that isn't right. You left the tickets with me for safe keeping. I have them right here in my purse.” “What a relief,” said Mr. Right as he turned left into the stadium parking lot. Joey almost left his baseball glove in the van, but right when Mr. Right was about to lock the doors, he remembered he had left it under his seat. The Right family had to wait in line for a bit, but finally made it to their seats in left field. As they sat down, Mr. Right looked to his left at the whole Right family and smiled. He had made the right decision in getting tickets for this game.

3. Processing

Ask detail-oriented questions about the story to see what the group remembers. How did your focus on passing the object affect how well you listened? What other things distract us when we are trying to listen? Describe active listening. How do we make sure we are all active listeners?

4. Questions

Where are the Rights going? What teams are playing? Where are they playing? How many Right family members are there? What are their names? At what time of the day was the game? Who almost forgot the baseball glove? Who had the tickets? How did the Rights get to the game?