

ESSENTIAL SKILLS™ PERSEVERANCE

Animal Roundup



Introduction

This activity helps students understand the value of being persistent and flexible in achieving a goal. Students will attempt to order themselves by the size of their favorite animals using only gestures and animal sounds.

Instructions

- Pass out slips of paper with animal names written down, or ask students to think of an animal they would like to represent.
- Tell students that without talking, they need to arrange themselves from the largest to the smallest animal.
- Students can only make gestures and the noise of their animal – they cannot use words.
- After they have finished arranging themselves, ask students to reveal their animal in turn from smallest to largest. Re-arrange if everyone agrees that an animal is out of place.

Discussion

- Was this activity easy or difficult? How many of you thought it would be impossible to succeed?
- Did anyone give up?
- Would the activity have been faster and easier if you could use your words?
- What was the most difficult animal to guess? What made it challenging?
- What setbacks did you and your group encounter? How did you recover from these setbacks?
- Were you frustrated when trying to let others know what animal you were? Did you have to adjust your sounds and actions to give more clues when others couldn't figure it out?
- Did you use any other Essential Skills during this activity? How?

Reflecting & Connecting

- To persevere, you must continue attempting to achieve your goal after an unsuccessful try, adjusting your strategy as needed.
- Perseverance is inherently tied to agility. Perseverance is the determination to overcome challenges to achieve your goals. When an individual with perseverance encounters a setback, he or she keeps trying. When recovering from a setback, agility helps that person respond to that set back in a way that will make success more likely the next time.
- Perseverance is also tied to teamwork. It is easier to keep trying when you have a whole team of people working together.

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Suggested Animals

Elephant

Rabbit

Owl

Mouse

Goldfish

Cow

Housecat

Skunk

Hippo

Dog

Bear

Dolphin

Lion

Frog

Monkey

Alligator

Pig

Gorilla

Walrus

Horse

Duck

Shark

Goat

Kangaroo

Whale

Crab

Sheep

Penguin

Rooster

Snake

Spider

Bumble Bee

Ostrich

Chicken

Octopus

Moose