



Conclusions

Talk about their experiences of collaboration when they played “centipede”.

The purpose of forming a moving centipede was to show the students that every member of the team contributes to its actions.

The conclusions that come to mind during the conversation – summing up:

- every person in the group is important,
- to be able to function in a group we must be aware of other people (their safety, their self-esteem, whether they are coping with a particular task, whether they require help or whether we should change the tempo of the task, give them some instructions etc.),
- the joint actions of all members of the group count – only a coordinated group working together can perform a group task.



Conclusions

The students share their experiences of working together in a team and draw conclusions.

Conclusions from the exercise:

- we cannot do some tasks on our own,
- it is easier for us to do some things when we are part of a group,
- everyone must contribute to the work and functioning of the group.

The students may squabble with each other when carrying out the exercise. Or they may try to force their different ideas and possible solutions on other members of the group – if this happens the class should talk about the risks/problems that can appear when people try to perform tasks as a group.



Talk

Talk about why people join together in groups. Explain what we mean by a social group.

The social group and social roles

It was Aristotle who first called man a "social animal". People naturally join together to form groups. We can give at least three major reasons for why they do so:

- a)** as people we have a strong need to be with others, which we call the "need" of social belonging – we form ties with others and do everything we can to maintain those ties,
- b)** the group gives us, its members, social support – we help each other, form relationships, which become a source of acceptance, and build a network of social contacts – we can count on help and support when we need to,
- c)** by acting in a group we can achieve goals and carry out tasks we would be unable to do on our own.

Each group has its own structure and functions in a specific way. Group members perform different social roles. We define a social group as two or more people who communicate with and influence one another, have a feeling of belonging (think of themselves as a WE) and have a common goal. Such a social group usually acts according to specific norms, which result from specific social roles – i.e. specialized behavior, which the whole group expects from individuals occupying specific positions in a given group. Group norms are contractual rules (rules agreed upon by its members), which determine proper and improper modes of behavior (in a particular group).