



LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® Tower

Why Use

To get people thinking with their hands, to encourage storymaking and telling, to encourage networking, and to appreciate diversity.

Building LEGO® models can be great openers. People can build a simple tower then use their model to introduce themselves to others. If we have a large group we might ask the participants to introduce themselves to two or three other people in the room. You can add another layer of fun by asking them to either get a new person's business card—get your cards ready—or to find someone with whom they have a shared commonality through their model stories. Or you can ask that participants find and meet someone whose model is identical to theirs.

When to Use

When you want to get engagement with some hard fun.

Resources

LEGO® mini exploration bags or random bricks, with one Minifigure per person.

Time

30 minutes

Group Size

Any

Instructions

We usually make the Minifigures ahead of time to make it easier for people to see them, but if you have not you might say something like, "Find a Minifigure—he has pants, a shirt, and a yellow head. Now look for a baseplate, which is a flat square brick." We show an example and say, "Please build a tower. You have about three minutes."

During the building of the tower, people may ask questions such as, "How many bricks do we use?" or, "How high does this need to be?" Do not respond to the



questions. They will quickly see you are not giving any information. We often wait for the towers to be at least 50% complete and then we announce, “30 seconds left to finish.”

Everyone now has a tower. You can ask questions like:

- Who was building for height?
- Who was building for stability?

Different people will raise their hands. This is a great opportunity to speak about interpretation of instructions or assumptions. Now you might ask if anyone thought their LEGO man was doing anything. There is usually someone who will have a story about this. After the story, ask the group to make a change to their model to create a story about something general. The story could be about the city where you are or the company they work for.

Now it is time for everyone to tell their stories. Ask everyone to stand up and find a partner to share stories with, and then switch partners after one minute. After the first set of stories, ask the participants to change partners. You can continue like this for a while. When you debrief you can ask how many people changed or modified their stories along the way.

Additional Information

In this process it is important that everyone builds with LEGO®—we have a rule that there are no observers. It is also important that everyone tells their story. If we ask someone to make something, they must share the story that goes with their model.

For more ideas and activities like this, read our book and join our community!