



DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE - COMMUNICATION EXERCISE: Drawing twins – trainer guidelines

Purpose

To illustrate how hard it is to give clear instructions as well as how hard it is to listen. To demonstrate how easily one person's understanding can be misunderstood and/or misinterpreted.

Objective

Delegates experience first-hand being misunderstood and misinterpreted and the difficulty of communicating when 'handicapped' by the language they can use.

What You Need

- Simple line-drawn pictures e.g. a kite, a house, a face, a TV
- Drawing pen
- Paper

Method

- Divide participants into pairs.
- Give one member of the pair a picture which must not be shown to their partner.
- The person with the picture must give instructions to their partner so that they can draw it, but must not say what it is, e.g., 'draw a circle, draw two more circles inside the circle about half way up'.
- Compare the drawing with the original.
- Hand out more pictures and ask participants to swap roles.

Discussion: discuss with delegates their frustrations, celebrate successful outcomes and where they think communication first broke down.

Timing: 15 minutes