

Hello From Around the World

Age:	9-10 years old
Time:	15 minutes
Location:	Indoors/Outdoors
Group Size:	15-30
Activity Level:	Moderate to active
Materials:	Small pieces of paper with the word "hello" written in different languages
Principal Value:	Respect for diversity
Other Values:	Acceptance, cooperation



References

For help animating this activity, please consult the following reference sheets:

- 06 – The Toolkit Values
- 13 – Selecting and Facilitating Activities
- 14 to 17 – Group Discussion

Purpose of the Activity

To experience speaking a different language, without knowing whether others will understand you, and to think about:

- The difficulties people face when they cannot speak English (or French)
- Why it is important to respect differences

Rights and Responsibilities

Right to non-discrimination (Article 2); right to your own language and culture (Article 30)

For all of us to enjoy these rights, we need to:

- Include others
- Respect other peoples' languages

Object of the Game

For each child to say "hello" in a foreign language and to form groups as directed.

How to Play

1. Choose 2 to 6 different "hellos" (see the list provided), depending on the number of children. Write the word "hello" in different languages on small pieces of paper. The total number of pieces of paper should be equal to the number of players
2. Give each child 1 piece of paper.
3. Ask the children to walk around the play area, holding their piece of paper without showing it to others. At your signal, they can start greeting one another, saying "hello" as it is written on their paper. They must find others who are saying "hello" in the same language as they are and form a group.

4. You can start the game over by redistributing the pieces of paper. You can also change the game by adding more languages or taking some away.

Variations

Different hellos together

Ask the children to form groups of 3 in which each person is saying "hello" in a different language.

Many hellos in my head

Ask the children to walk around the room saying "hello" in the language on their paper. As they wander, they should try to remember as many other hellos as they can. Give them at least 2 minutes.

Hello

Buenos dias (Spanish)

Guten tag (German)

Salaam (Arab)

Ni hao (Chinese)

Sunchhen (Bengali)

Bonjou (Haitian Creole)

Dzien dobry (Polish)

Namaste (Hindi)

Dobry den (Czech)

Konnichi wa (Japanese)

Shalom (Hebrew)

Bom-dia (Portuguese)

Ciao (Italian)

Goedendag (Dutch)

Jambo (Swahili)

Amakuru (Rwandan)

She:kon (Mohawk)

Group Discussion

After the game, have the children reflect on the experience. You can use these questions as a guide:

Feel



Begin by having the children guess the different languages in the game. Refer to the list provided.

- What was your favourite part of the game?
- How did it feel to try and speak a language other than your own?
- How did it feel when you could not understand the other children and they could not understand you?

Think



- How many of you speak a language other than English (or French)? Have the children name the language they speak and say "hello" in that language. Ask the other children to repeat the greeting.
- Have you ever been in a situation where you did not understand the language, for example, on a trip? What did you do to get by?

Act



- Do you know children who do not speak English (or French) very well? What can we do to help them?

You can download other games from the following website:

<http://www.equitas.org/toolkit/>