

# Cooperative Musical Chairs

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|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Age:</b>             | 6-8 years old                                  |
| <b>Time:</b>            | 15 minutes                                     |
| <b>Location:</b>        | Indoors/Outdoors                               |
| <b>Group Size:</b>      | 8-15   |
| <b>Activity Level:</b>  | Active   |
| <b>Materials:</b>       | 1 chair or piece of newspaper per child, music |
| <b>Principal Value:</b> | Cooperation                                    |
| <b>Other Value:</b>     | Inclusion                                      |



## 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 feelings of inclusion and exclusion and to think about:

- How we can cooperate to include others
- How cooperation brings positive results

## Rights and Responsibilities

Right to non-discrimination (Article 2)

For all of us to enjoy this right, we need to include others.

## Object of the Game

For as many children as possible to find a place to sit.

## How to Play

1. Place the chairs (or newspaper) in a circle. In the beginning, there should be 1 chair or place per child.
2. Play as you would normally play musical chairs: Play music and ask the children to skip around the chairs. Explain that they must find a chair to sit on when the music stops.
3. Before the second round, take away 1 of the chairs. This time when the music stops, the child who does not find a chair is eliminated. Repeat this 2 more times.
4. At the fourth round, ask the children who have been eliminated to return to the game. Challenge all the children to find a way to play so that no one is eliminated. Do not offer any solutions; let the children figure it out for themselves. They will quickly discover that they can share a chair by sitting on someone's lap or standing on the chair.

5. Continue to take away a chair at each turn and to eliminate the children who do not find a seat. The game will become progressively more difficult as the number of chairs decreases.
6. Congratulate the children on their creativity when they succeed in staying in the game while including, rather than excluding, others.
7. The game ends when there is only 1 chair left. The winners are the children who have succeeded in staying in the game until the last chair.

## Group Discussion

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

### Feel



- How did you like the game?
- Did someone try to make room for you in the game? How did that feel?

### Think



- Have you ever played musical chairs? How is this game different?
- Did you try to help others during the game? What did you do?
- Who was the winner of this game?

### Act



- What can you do to include others when you are playing?
- What are some other things we can do every day to include others?

Adapted from the Woodcraft Folk,  
[http://globalvillage2006.org/en/do\\_something\\_about/co\\_operatives/co\\_operative\\_chairs](http://globalvillage2006.org/en/do_something_about/co_operatives/co_operative_chairs), consulted on March 18, 2008.



You can download other games from the following website:

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