

# Group image



## OBJECTIVES:

- Check members' feelings towards the group
- Helping to build the group



## AXES:

**Pursuit of a common future/ goal(s) (putting values such as cooperation and solidarity into practice)**

## AGE GROUPS:

**From 5 to 24 people, preferably over 10-12 years old**



## STEP BY STEP DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

### >> Introduction to the activity

Explain to the group that they will create an image representing the group themselves, using each other's bodies in turn.

Note that a person can be used as him/herself/themself or also representing another person or also metaphorically (the image can be a house, or an animal...).

### >> 1st part of the activity: creating the image

Once someone spontaneously prepares an image and shows it, ask the group if they agree that the image represents the group; if they do not, invite another person to prepare and show another proposition and so on.

When children create an image, they are not obliged to involve the whole group in it, nor themselves.

### >> 2nd part of the activity: choosing the image

Ask the group to choose from all the images the one that best represents the group, to finally come up with a common image, the one most shared by the group.

Attention: sometimes it happens, sometimes it does not.

### >> 3rd part of the activity: identifying emotions

When a sufficiently agreed picture is reached, ask the whole group (those in the picture and also those outside) to feel how they are doing.

Invite those who are happy to stay, and those who are not, to move, slowly, to another position, without moving the other people.

When everyone seems satisfied, stop the image.

## » 4th part of the activity: discuss

Propose a discussion on observations and interpretations, feelings and thoughts generated by the different images.

Start by asking for emotions and feelings in the different steps.

Other questions may include:

- What did you observe that surprised you (observations only)?
- Who has changed and who has not?
- What are the main differences between the initial image and the final image achieved?
- What can be done to make this ideal group image exist? Real?

### MATERIALS:

None

### METHODOLOGY:

Theatre of the oppressed

### PREPARATION

It is useful to use some ice-breaking tools beforehand to reduce barriers and build basic trust in the group.

### TIPS FOR THE PERSON DOING IT

This technique can be hurtful, as it affects members, roles in the group, can highlight exclusion, power differentials, scapegoats, conflicts.

So be prepared to manage the emotions stimulated at both group and individual level.

There is a more intense version:

The path is the same, the only important difference is that in this case the one who is placed in the image by the sculptor is representing the very person he/she/they is/are.

Therefore the intensity is much stronger and so is the delicacy of the process that can hurt someone, perhaps excluded.

### WHEN:

This exercise is important when you feel there is a problem within the group.

### DURATION: 1h