

Games and activities to develop effective questioning

Trainer note: choose one of the following. Only add extra if the participants have limited experience of active listening. Print on card or laminate the instructions for the exercise you choose.

Exercise 2

◆ Effective Questioning

- In same groups of three – swap roles
- Talker to focus on an “out of the ordinary” idea for a forthcoming meeting/activity
- The listener is to use questions to find out as much as possible and help colleague refine ideas
- Observer to feedback how effective questioning was

Exercise 2

◆ Cinderella’s relations

- Work in small groups or pairs. Take turns to be other characters in the story, Step Mother, Wicked Sister. The person is journalist trying to get a different side of the Cinderella story.
- Briefly recap the story of Cinderella. The journalist uses effective questioning to get the situation from Cinderella’s relations point of view.
- Allow 10 mins and then share with other participants.

Use different fairy story characters for each group, eg:

- Giant from Jack and the Beanstalk
- Wolf from the Three Little Pigs
- Wolf from Little Red Riding Hood etc

Debrief:

What did you learn?

Were you able to use first level questions that allowed the relation to explain their view of events and their feelings?

Did they get emotional or angry? Were you able to use Second level questions to help them move on?

Basic skills if participants are very inexperienced at using effective questioning or are not sure of the difference between open and closed questions.

◆ **What's your house like?**

Split the group into pairs and have one person draw the other's house based on questions that they ask. (There will probably be lots of closed-ended questions used).

Then, go through the session, explaining the difference between the two types of questions before having the same pairs complete the drawing exercise.

You'll find that the drawings will be more accurate, particularly if you have a smart participant who says 'What does your house look like?!'