

Spaghetti Tower



Planning

- 20 minutes
- 3 or 4 people per group

Materials

Materials per group:

- 8 oz package of spaghetti
- 25 wooden toothpicks
- 50 small gumdrops

Instructions

- Each member into groups of three or four people. Have them designate one person as a leader and one person as an observer. Give each leader a role card that explains the kind of leader he or she will be. Give each observer an observer sheet. When all the leaders understand their roles, the supplies are distributed to each group.

Game Play

- Scatter these teams around the room, either on the floor or at a table or desk. Give each team an 8 oz package of spaghetti (can use ½ packages), 25 wooden toothpicks, and 50 small gumdrops. Tell them they have 10 min to build as high of a structure as they can.

Debrief

- At the end of 10 min everyone goes around and looks at all the structures. Then come together and discuss what happened.
 - Which tower was the..
 - Tallest
 - Strongest
 - Most attractive
 - Ask each group leader to explain their roles to the group.
 - Discuss participants satisfaction with the experience.
 - What are the implications of the different leadership styles
 - When is “dictator” leadership appropriate
 - When is “laissez-faire” leadership appropriate
 - When is “democratic” leadership appropriate



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Leader #1

- You are a **dictator**, which means that you tell the group what to do.
 - Do not accept any suggestions from group members
 - Do give orders about how the job will get done.
 - The sculpture is to be a result of your ideas.

YOU MUST NOT INFORM THE GROUP OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

Leader #2

- You are to be a **democratic** leader which means that you and the group work together to build the sculpture.
 - Your job is to involve the group to the point where everyone agrees with the way the sculpture turns out.
 - Ask everyone in the group for their ideas and opinions.

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Leader #3

- You are to be a **laissez-faire** leader which means that you do not make any suggestions about how or what is to be done or who is to do it.
 - Let everyone do what they want to do.
 - The sculpture must come from their ideas.

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Observer Worksheet

Your task is to observe the group's behavior. You do not participate. Position yourself where you can observe the behavior of all the group members.

1. Who was the group's leader?
2. Describe his/her leadership style. Give some examples of his/her behavior that illustrate that style.
3. Describe the climate or atmosphere of the group. Give some examples of the group members' behavior that illustrates this climate. Record the members' names and note their specific behavior.
4. Describe the involvement or participation of the group members in this task.

