

Line-Ups

These simple line up activities show students an example of what they will do getting ready for the Adventure Challenge Course at Wildwood.

Start by putting kids in a group in an open room or outdoor space with a wall or natural border they can use to guide their line. If your class is large, you might begin with students divided into two or three small groups.

Explain to students that you have a challenge for them to complete that will let them practice working together as a team. Once you explain the way you want students to line up (see ideas below), try to remain quiet and let them work out what to do and how to do it to accomplish the goal. Resist the urge to direct their actions.

If students disrupt the activity or get too frustrated, you can “pause” the activity and give them some time to talk as a group about what they need to do in order to be successful. Then, let them start again. It may take a couple of starts for some classes to achieve the goal.



Line-Ups to Try

- Line up by birthday with January starting here and December ending there without speaking.
- Line up from oldest to youngest without speaking.
- Line up from shortest to tallest without speaking.
- Line up alphabetically by first names without speaking.
- Line up alphabetically by middle names without speaking.
- Line up alphabetically by last names without speaking and with your hands behind your backs.
- (Think of more if you'd like, but avoid topics that single kids out or overemphasize physical differences.)

Reflecting and Processing

After students try a couple of these, you can ask some questions to get them to think about how they worked together and what they learned from Line Ups.

What was difficult about this activity for our class?

What was easy for you as a group?

What surprised you about this activity?

How could you improve your speed and line up faster?

What methods did you use to communicate since you couldn't speak during the activity?

Who showed leadership in the group? Who had an idea that helped solve the problem?

How did you feel during this activity? What was the best part and the worst part for you?

(You can think of more questions. How, what and who questions generally elicit better responses than Why questions. Why questions often elicit defensive responses.)

Have fun! For a bigger challenge, invite another class or a younger grade to participate with you.