

## **Name Juggle**

Focus: Learning names

Materials: Many soft throwable objects such as fleece balls, wadded up pieces of paper, Nerf™ balls

Level: Grades K and higher

### **Suggested Procedure**

1. Clear the desks or tables away and have students stand in a circle. Tell students that this is an activity designed to help people learn names.
2. Provide an object to pass around the group. Each person who receives the object says her or his name and gives some personal information – such as number of siblings, something that has happened this week, or something else that group members don't know.
3. When the object returns to you, go over throwing etiquette: Make sure that the receiver knows the object is coming! This can be accomplished by calling the receiver's name and making eye contact before throwing the item. Model this by calling a group member's name and tossing the item to her or him.
4. The person who receives the ball then continues by calling someone else's name and throwing the item to him, and so on. Anyone can receive the object more than once.
5. After this has gone on for a while, start throwing an additional object, then another, and another. Pretty soon all the items are being thrown, and the energy and laughter levels have risen exponentially.
6. Continue for a while. Then stop the action and see if there is anyone who would like to name everyone in the group.

### **Sample Processing Questions**

- Why might it be important to make an effort to learn the names of people in the class?
- What does it mean to include others? Why might it be important to be inclusive?
- How might we make an effort to include everybody in the class?
- How can each of us make an effort to learn names of others outside of this class?
- How did we keep each other safe (or not), even when it got chaotic?
- How can we be aware of other ways to stay safe in class?

### **Facilitation Notes**

For younger students: Use fewer items, and items that are easier to catch, like stuffed animals. Start with one and see how it goes. Stop the action, then ask the students if they would like to try two items. Ask for strategies to make it work so that people can stay safe. If that goes well, try three items, etc.

If the students already know each other, try this same activity by having them call out a word or phrase that tells something else about themselves, like a favorite story or movie character.

**CAUTION: Tennis balls and other objects with hard surfaces can be hazardous. Do not use them.**