



FAHED - Families And Higher Education Decision-making

ICE BREAKER – ALPHABETICAL ORDERING

The following is an example of an icebreaker exercise used with families as part of the Lancashire Intergenerational Multicultural Education Project (LIME). This icebreaker helps develop key skills such as literacy skills, problem solving skills and non-verbal communication. It is also an exercise which can be adapted to be as inclusive as possible (e.g. to enable participation of people with low literacy skills and individuals who are deaf).

METHOD	TARGET GROUP	ADAPTATIONS	ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES
<p>Part 1: Ask participants to arrange themselves in alphabetical order according to family (last) name and then introduce the person next to them.</p> <p>Part 2: Ask participants to arrange themselves in alphabetical order according to first name, but this time they are not to use any verbal communication during the activity. Once in the right order, ask the learners to introduce the person next to them.</p>	<p>Suitable for: All ages and backgrounds.</p>	<p>Language Support: Ensure instructions are explained in required languages.</p> <p>Poor literacy skills: If you are working with a group where you suspect poor literacy levels, you can omit the non-verbal communication in part 2 and encourage participants to help each other sort themselves according to height, or shade of hair colour.</p> <p>Space required: This activity could be carried out in an open space or learners could be asked to arrange themselves on the chairs or around a table. Be aware of those who might find moving round more difficult.</p>	<p>Advantages: A creative way to introduce each other and get the group mixed up. Involves whole group participation. Can be used as a mid session energiser. When used with staff it can be a useful reminder of inclusive learning needs.</p> <p>Disadvantages: May be difficult for those with literacy needs therefore important to be sensitive. You need to make sure you have the space for people to move around easily. It can be tiring or difficult for some people to move around.</p>