



Project Connect Introduction

For the first time, the Toobeez program has been adapted as a useful teaching tool for utilization in schools and educational forums. Toobeez are a unique means of teaching academics, social skills, teamwork and problem solving. The activities developed with Toobeez are designed to challenge students to evaluate concepts from a practical point of view with hands-on learning opportunities.

Teachers can use Toobeez as an innovative tool to implement valuable activities in the classroom. The **Team Series** provides excellent resources and activities to lead meaningful teambuilding experiences with groups. The **Scholastic Series** of workbooks includes additional information on the current educational practices listed below and how the Toobeez scholastic workbooks address these practices.

Brain-based Research
Multiple Intelligence Theory
Differentiated Instruction
Problem Solving
Character Education Themes
Teambuilding & Connections with Others
Collaborative Hands-On Experience

The use of Toobeez in the classroom can play an important role in establishing connections between students, peers and teachers!

Sample lesson plans are located on pages 6 - 9.

(Please note: the "Activity Notes" and "Activity Variations" sections have been omitted)

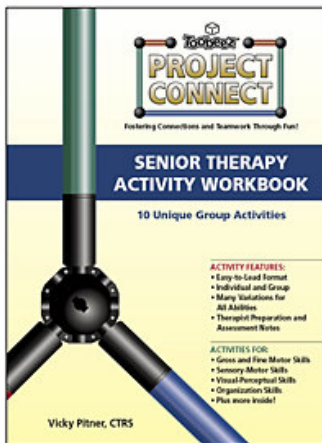
Project Connect Materials

Project Connect is dedicated to providing cutting-edge teambuilding activities and academic tools for educators. These activities can be used for exciting educational days and can reinforce everyday moments with both youth and adults!

Project Connect offers the following products:

Toobeez

Toobeez are the incredible construction tubes used to build and create the activities for your group! A one-of-a-kind construction system, Toobeez give you the chance to "connect" as a group while engaging everybody in constructive play. Toobeez are a hands-on, easy-to-assemble and safe product that captivates the imagination of anyone who uses them. You can use them indoors or outdoors to hold a powerful learning experience anytime!



Activity Workbooks

The Toobeez workbooks include detailed lesson plans with safety reminders, helpful hints, procedures, debriefing questions, activity variations and more to build and develop the skills of your group. Other available workbooks include Math, Science, Language Arts, Physical Education, Occupational Therapy and Teambuilding.

Multimedia Training CD

This CD is based on the award-winning book by Tom Heck entitled *The Official Toobeez Team Building Games Activity Guide*. This CD contains all of the information found in the guide plus video clips, audio interviews and other special bonus features.



Award-Winning!



Tested in 2004 by multiple teachers with families, the Toobeez Interactive Family Edition has won a Teacher's Choice Award for 2005. The Interactive Family Edition is what you get when you combine a set of Toobeez with Tom Heck's book, *The Official Toobeez Teambuilding Games and Activity Guide*, and Multimedia Training CD.

Project Connect Training Opportunities

Project Connect offers two types of training workshops designed to help any type of group leader enhance their skills!

1. **Train-the-Trainer Workshop**
2. **TEAM Workshop**



Train-the-Trainer Workshop

This workshop is for you if:

- You are an educator looking for new ways of teaching team and leadership skills
- You like learning in a fast-paced and hands-on environment

What to expect

In the Train-the-Trainer workshop, you will learn how to lead activities that develop team and leadership skills. This workshop is fun, empowering and educational. It is also experiential, meaning you will learn by doing.

You will learn activities that promote trust and creative problem solving, as well as encourage purposeful and kind communication. You will experience physical activities, as well as activities which demand high cerebral skills. You will learn how to design everything from a five-minute icebreaker to a full two-day adventure. Depending on the length of the program you choose, you can even learn how to integrate the activities into an existing curriculum.



You will learn how to deliver important debriefing (processing) skills to learn how to draw out the genius of the group by asking thought-provoking questions. When a debriefing session is delivered properly, groups learn to own the information they generate from the teambuilding activities, providing them with a sense of empowerment, connectedness and success!



This is the perfect workshop for you if you are a:

- Classroom teacher
- School counselor
- Camp counselor
- Human Resources director
- Trainer or workshop presenter
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

TEAM Workshop **Together Everyone Achieves More**

The TEAM workshop is for your team if you are ready to:

- Move quickly from a “good” team to a “great” team
- Have fun and be challenged in a dynamic learning environment
- Be treated with respect and dignity while leveraging the strengths of your group

Over the years, we have worked with thousands of people from all walks of life, including:

- Business teams (from such industries as investing, communications, and insurance)
- Non-profit organizations (such as YMCA, YWCA and Boys & Girls Clubs)
- Educators (including public & private school teachers, school counselors, college students, college teaching staff and international students)
- Alternative education programs (including corrections officers, after-school programs and enrichment programs)



What to expect

In this workshop, you will participate in fun activities and engaging hands-on learning exercises to help your team address vital issues so it can move forward. This workshop focuses on where you are now as a group and where you are going.

For more information about attending or scheduling teambuilding training workshops, call:

1-877-TOOBEEZ

1-877-866-2339

Contact the following websites for more information:

www.project-connect.net

www.toobeez.com

www.teachmeteamwork.com

Sample Activity

THE TUNNEL

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Objectives

- Improve fine-motor skills
- Stimulate cognitive functioning
- Promote problem-solving skills
- Provide connectedness within a group
- Increase affiliation with others
- Increase verbal interaction
- Improve sitting and/or standing balance

Preparation

Time: 5 minutes

Materials:

- 1 or more Toobeez set(s)
- 6' or 8' tables
- chairs (optional)

Setup:

1. Set up tables and chairs for participants' use.
2. Have Toobeez ready.

Activity Focus

Psychosocial

Activity Plan

Group Size: 4 to 8

Time: 30 - 60 minutes

Space: Medium

Challenge

The group must construct a tunnel made from Toobeez.

Safety Reminders!

Appropriate caution is important to conduct activities in a safe manner. Be sure to review these reminders prior to beginning the activity, and share reminders with the group if necessary.

- This is an activity that can promote standing or sitting balance
- Apply the “no discount” rule; all suggestions in the group are counted and are not put down, reduced or “discounted” in any way, as all group members’ comments are valued
- Remind participants to be mindful of their neighbors when swinging Toobeez into place so they do not hit each other in the head

Helpful Hints!

- This is also a great challenge for group interaction or for the participant that is looking for something new
- The number of tables will determine how long the tunnel can be

Activity Instructions

1. Arrange the participants so half are on each side of the table(s).
2. Orient the participants to each other and open with a brief discussion about the importance of needing other people in our lives to help meet our goals. Have participants give examples of how they currently help each other.
3. When they are ready, introduce the storyline:

Your group is on a trip to Rocky Caverns, a popular vacation resort, when a rockslide occurs blocking the opening to the outside. Help is on the way, but the rescue team is not sure where you are located. If you could build a small tunnel out of the materials you have, you could yell to the outside so the rescue team could find you. You are in close quarters, and you do not have much time! When completed, yell, “We did it!” so the rescue workers will know where to find you!

Sample Activity

4. Read the Activity Challenge Box to the group.

Activity Challenge: The group must construct a tunnel made from Toobeez.

5. Allow participants to plan and problem solve together while constructing their tunnel. Participants can build any tunnel structure that solves their problem. They do not have to build the exact structure in the pictures.
6. Hand-over-hand intervention may be necessary for some participants, so assist participants who may have difficulty with these movements.
7. Encourage the group with verbal suggestions (if necessary) to keep the group engaged.
8. If your group is struggling, or if you feel your group would benefit from an additional challenge, present a variation provided below.
9. After the activity, move to the “Activity Discussion and Processing” section.



Activity Discussion and Processing

The effectiveness of the group process will often determine the outcome for the participant. These are only suggested questions to begin the discussion. Select the ones you feel will best benefit your group. Make sure to let everyone share their ideas, and remind participants that everyone's feelings are important!

Suggested questions for processing:

- How did you feel when you heard what you were going to do?
- How did it feel to be part of a group trying to reach a goal?
- What was the hardest part of the challenge?
- When have there been other times you were part of a team?
- Did you need help at times from others?
- Did anyone in the group say anything that made you keep working?
- How does it feel to reach (or not reach) the goal?

Closing the Activity

Review the challenge of the group and summarize how the challenge was (or was not) achieved. Highlight the main contributions and resolve unfinished issues. Affirm their efforts for support and acceptance of each other's feelings. End with the following quote:

“A group becomes a team when all members are sure enough to praise the skill of the others.” - Anonymous