



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)

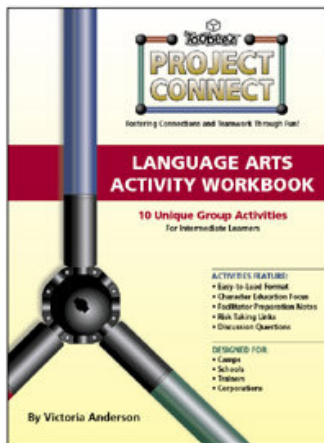
Project Connect Materials

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, Teambuilding, Physical Education, Occupational Therapy and Senior Therapy.

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

HOW TO-BEEZ

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Objectives

- Analyze a sample of expository writing with peers
- Write clear, step-by-step instructions to assemble a structure
- Work cooperatively with group members
- Discuss and reflect on the experience

Preparation

Time: 5 minutes

Materials: 2 or more Toobeez sets
sample of how-to writing
(provided in the Appendix)
paper and pencils
tape
crayons or colored pencils
chart paper (optional)

Setup:

1. Divide up the Toobeez equally among each small group.
2. Using multiple Toobeez sets allows students more flexibility in their creations.

The Challenge

With a small group, construct a Toobeez structure. Then write clear “how-to” directions so another group can duplicate the unique structure.

Character Focus

Cooperation &
Communication

Activity Plan

Time: 45 - 55 minutes

Space: Medium

Instruction: Small groups

Helpful Hints!

Be sure to review these tips prior to beginning the activity, and if necessary, share reminders with the group during the activity.

- When identifying the elements of good expository writing, make sure students understand the need for clear, yet concise, directions
- Use tongue depressors, clothes pins or name tags with the following titles to help groups share the different responsibilities of the activity: 1-2 Designers, 1 Recorder, 1 Illustrator and 1 Coordinator
- If possible, have groups work in various areas of the class, hallway or common areas so other groups do not see their structures

Activity Instructions

1. Circle up the group. Discuss the purpose of “how-to” writing (see information below).

* **“How-to”** writing is a type of sequential expository writing which informs a reader how to complete a task.

2. Have students determine some purposes for how-to writing, and record their ideas on the board or on chart paper (for example, recipes, kit instructions, etc.).
3. Share a sample of how-to writing with the class. You can use a transparency or chart paper. You can also hand out individual samples to the groups.
4. Arrange students in small groups of four or five.
5. Have groups write down two or more characteristics of this form of writing, and then have the students share their ideas with the class. Record how-to writing characteristics for the class. Some points they should include are: short/concise, clear, numbered, inclusion of each step and so on.
6. Read aloud the following Activity Challenge Box to the group.

Challenge: With a small group, construct a Toobeez structure. Then write clear “how-to” directions so another group can duplicate your unique structure.

7. In the small groups, students will take their share of the Toobeez to create a small, but detailed, structure. Inform students that tube size and color must also match. They have 15 minutes to complete this task.
8. It is helpful for group members to take on a job title (Designer, Recorder, Illustrator, and Coordinator). The Designers create the structure while the Recorder writes and numbers each step taken to create the structure. The Illustrator sketches the structure recording colors and sizes of tubes. The Coordinator watches the time and may ask the teacher any necessary questions.
9. ***Important:** Once a group has completed their structure, all group members should agree the sketch and written steps are accurate. The steps should follow the guidelines of good expository writing as discussed earlier in the class. Then, the group can disassemble their structure.
10. Now, have each small group switch the Toobeez and written instructions with another finished group. Illustrators should hold on to the sketched picture for their group.
11. Groups should reassemble the structure according to the written instructions. Once each group assembles the structure, the original group's Coordinator will compare the structure to their own sketch to determine accurate assembly.
12. After the activity, move to the "Activity Discussion and Processing" section of the activity.



The Illustrator (left) and the Recorder (right) must pay close attention to record every detailed step.

Back row (left to right): Coordinator, Designer
 Front row (left to right): Illustrator, Designer, and Recorder. All are working to develop "how-to" instructions.



Assessment

- Students worked cooperatively in small groups
- Students wrote clear, step-by-step instructions
- A group's structure could be accurately replicated by another group
- Teacher observed good student participation

Activity Discussion and Processing

To close the lesson, end with a group discussion about what was learned during the activity. Circle up the group, and work through the following questions. If possible, record the group's responses on flip chart paper so all comments are displayed.

- What should be included in good "how-to" instructions?
- What was challenging about writing how-to instructions?
- What do you think helped groups to be successful in writing clear directions?
- Did your group respect the roles given to each member?
- How did having roles help your group communicate with one another?
- How did you contribute to your group's outcome?
- What did you find challenging about working as a team during this activity?