

ACTIVITY BASED ENGAGEMENT 012
MAY 2019

BOTS OR TOPS

Young people can surprise you with what they know. This activity explores what young people know about different issues and topics.



What age group is this appropriate for?

8 years and older

Where should it be done?

Indoor

What size group?

Small groups or in pairs

How much time is needed?

5 minutes to explain activity

5 minutes to play (can be repeated as many times as you like)

Resources required:

Flip chart paper

Permanent Markers – a different colour for each team

Directions:

- 1) Split the group into pairs or even teams and give them paper and pens.
- 2) The facilitator calls out a theme, topic or issue. The teams/pairs work together to write a list of as many things that relate to the theme, topic or issue. They have 2 minutes to do this.
- 3) At the end of the 2 minutes the teams/pairs count the number of things they were able to list. Then they begin to bid against the other players to see who had the most (like the TV show Rich List). For example; one team may say they can name 12, another may say they can name 14 and so on. The team that says they can name the most must then prove it by naming the items and if they are right they are TOPS.
- 4) At any time, another team can call the bluff by saying BOTS. For example; one team may say they can name 62 countries, if another team calls BOTS then they are forced to try and name 62 countries. If they succeed they get TOPS, if they fail then they are BOTS and must sit out the next round.
- 5) Start with easy things like fruits or types of chocolate bars. This allows participants to get used to the game.
- 6) Once they are comfortable you can start giving themes like 'What are challenges youth face?' or 'What is great about your community for young people?' or 'How many child/youth spaces are there in your town?' or 'Things you need for school?' or 'What are the different rights for children included Children's Convention?'

Outcomes:

You will come away with a glimpse of your young people's knowledge and experience of their community, school, world. Provide them with a handout of the 42 promises to children in the Children's Convention. Can they match up the issues or activities they listed to the promises for extra points?



PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY:

The Children's Convention

This is a very simple game that gets young people talking and sharing things they know with each other.

Adding in child/youth related themes, you are able to support them to see how the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (The Children's Convention) is relevant because it is connected to things they do every day or week.

For more information about the roles and responsibilities of The Office of the Children's Commissioner, visit our website at www.occ.org.nz