



## Ice Breaker Activities

Creating a positive learning environment starts on the first day of your program, and building relationships with students helps to lay the foundation. Icebreaker activities help students to get to know each other and begin to feel comfortable. Here are some ideas for icebreakers that are sure to get students laughing!

### **“Find Someone Who...” Bingo**

Create Bingo cards that include a different experience in each box, such as “has a sibling,” “has been to the ocean” and “has eaten chocolate ice cream.” Players find someone different to fit each description, then ask the person’s name and write it in the box. Including program staff with students in this activity can help everyone relax.

### **Two Truths and a Lie**

Give every student an index card and ask them to write down two truths and one lie about themselves. This activity works best between students who don’t know each other well, so pair them accordingly. Students take turns sharing the three statements and having their partner guess which are true and which is a lie. To follow up, you can ask students to share more about their truths.

### **Name Game**

Start by having students stand in a circle. Have a student begin by saying their name accompanied by an adjective, animal or a gesture. Then, all the other students must repeat it exactly as the student did. As you move around the circle, students must repeat the current student’s name followed by all of the previous students’ names. Once everyone has had a turn, ask for a volunteer to share everyone’s introduction, starting with their own. Students will laugh and have fun while learning one another’s names.

### **Snowball Fight**

Have students write at least two facts about themselves on a piece of paper. Next, ask everyone to gather in a circle. Tell students to crumple up their sheets of paper and throw them in a pile in the middle of the circle. Then, each student should pick up a new paper and take turns reading them out loud. When someone recognizes their facts, they should raise their hand and share more about what they wrote.

### **House of Cards**

Place students in small groups and have them discuss their likes and dislikes. Then, give them a stack of index cards and have them write something they have in common on each card. Have the group build a tower as the cards are completed. Challenge groups to see who can find the most things they have in common to build the tallest tower.

### **The Question Web**

As students stand in a circle, have one student take a ball of yarn and hold on to the end while throwing the ball to another student. The thrower should ask the catcher a question about themselves. The catcher should answer the question and continue the process by throwing the ball to another student and asking them a question. As the activity progresses, the unraveled yarn will create a web that represents the uniqueness of the students and what they each contribute to the group.



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### **This or That**

Read out “this or that” statements and have students go to one side of the room or the other depending on which they prefer. Examples of questions include “Would you rather live in the country or the city?” and “Would you rather be indoors or outdoors?” This will help students learn more about each other and see what they have in common.

### **We’ve Got Talent**

Standing in a circle, have students take turns introducing themselves and showing off a special skill or talent. Some examples might include performing a dance move, saying something in another language, or snapping their fingers. If students prefer, they may also say their talent, such as drawing or playing a sport.

### **Interview Game**

Have students pair up and interview each other to learn interesting facts. You may choose to give them questions to select from (for example, “What is your favorite food?” or “What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?”). Then, have students introduce their partners to the whole group.

### **Blobs and Lines**

Prompt students to either line up in a particular order (such as by birthday or in alphabetical order by first name) or gather in “blobs” based on something they have in common (such as same favorite season or same favorite food). This activity will keep students moving and talking while finding commonalities.