



# Playdough Teamwork



## OBJECTIVE:

Understanding collaborative team effort with full communication

## MATERIALS:

Play dough in several colors, folded papers that have a body part/accessory written on them, basket or box to place the folded pieces of paper, plastic table cloths

## ACTIONS:

Need to determine how many different colors of play dough will be needed

Need to make sure the number of body and accessories match the number of team members in each exercise (i.e. eye 2x, ear 2x, nose, mouth, head, torso, arm 2x, hand 2x, leg 2x, foot 2x, shirt, umbrella, ring 2x, watch, shoe 2x, necklace, hat, pants).

Need to determine if one or two people will be made during the exercise

Need to determine how many white table cloths will be needed

## WORD BANK:

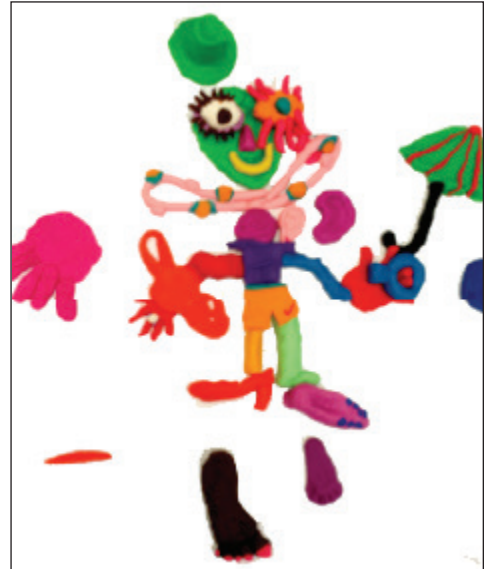
*communication, teamwork, collaboration*

## ROUND ONE:

**Individual Task.** Pull 1 folded paper from the box and build the body part/accessory. No talking, no questions, no looking at what others are building. Everyone has 4 minutes to build their body part/accessory. After 4 minutes, everyone is given 6 minutes to collectively put all the part and accessories together.

## ROUND TWO:

**Team Task.** Use the same folded paper and with full communication, teamwork, and collaboration, build the body part/accessory again. Everyone has 6 minutes to build their body part/accessory. Team is give 6 minutes to put all of the parts and accessories together.





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## KEY UNDERSTANDINGS

### DISCUSSION:

What did we learn from this? What's the difference between a focus on individual effort (i.e. working in a silo) versus a collaborative team effort with full communication? How do you build quality into a product by reaching out to others?

This lean exercise utilizes play dough to facilitate a hands-on exercise with the audience as they learn the importance of building quality into the process, working together as a team, and effective communications (both individually and as a team).

#### **Lack of collaboration results in:**

- Lower Efficiency
- Poor Output
- Assumptions
- Creepy Play Dough Person

#### **Team collaboration results in:**

- High Productivity and Efficiency
- Healthy Work Environment
- Quality Product
- Team Building, Stronger Relationships
- Attractive Play Dough Person

