**Leadership Games**

Student groups, including classrooms, youth groups, athletic teams, and others, can benefit from the cooperative nature of team building games. These activities provide multiple opportunities for kids to grow not only as teams, but as individuals, too.

Team-building games allow kids to get to know each other in a fun, but challenging atmosphere, and increase the cohesiveness and productivity of teams.

**All In Activity**

For this game you will need four different lengths of rope: twenty feet, fifteen feet, ten feet, and feet long. Each piece of rope should be tied together at the ends so that it forms a loop. The activity begins with placing the largest piece of rope on the floor in a circle. The task is for the entire group to get inside the circle. No part of the body can be touching the floor outside of the circle. After the team has accomplished this goal, they move on to the fifteen foot rope, and so on, until they get to the smallest circle. As the circles shrink in size, teams will need get more creative and cooperative in order to meet the challenge.

**Hoop It Up Activity**

This activity involves one of four hula hoops placed in each corner of the room, plus a hula hoop in the center. The center hula hoop should be filled with about twenty or so tennis balls. Each of four groups (of any size) is assigned to a hula hoop. The task is for each group to get all of the tennis balls inside their hoop. Give the teams five minutes to work on this task, then call time and give them the opportunity to regroup and plan another strategy before continuing the game. Groups will slowly realize that trying to move balls from one hoop to another is futile: the only way to win is for ALL teams to win: by leaving the balls in the center hoop and then stacking their hoops on top of the central hoop. This game emphasizes the value of cooperation over competition.

**Human Overhand Activity**

This is perhaps the most challenging game of all. An even number of participants, (preferably four or six) must be used. Group members stand in a line, and are connected to one another by holding the ends of an18 inch length of rope. The object of the activity is for the group to work together to tie a knot in the center length of rope without anyone letting go of the ropes. This activity is much harder than it sounds and can become frustrating for group members. Be sure to allow at least an hour for this activity.

Be sure to process after each activity, nothing what types of roles each student player (leader, idea generator, etc.) and how the group dynamic changes over time as students participate in these activities. With effective leadership, kids can really benefit from participation in team-building activities.