**Building Blocks**

Try this brick-by-brick approach to building your team’s problem-solving and collaboration skills

| Type | Game |
| --- | --- |
| Purpose | Interpersonal team building |
| Topics | Teambuilding, communication, fun, collaboration, problem solving, design thinking |
| Audience | General |

## **About this activity**

A survey by Harvard Business Review Analytic Services indicated that 84% of executives believe that innovation is driven by a culture of collaboration and play. This research aligns with survey data compiled by the American Psychological Association in which 78% of employees who have regular opportunities for creative play report higher job satisfaction and problem-solving abilities.

In this hands-on exercise, participants will come together to tackle complex business challenges, strengthen teamwork, and boost creativity through the construction of a LEGO structure. Get ready to unleash your creativity, break down barriers, and discover the power of collaborative play for real-world business scenarios.

Building Blocks works best in small groups of 3-4 participants, up to 24 total participants in an in-person setting.

#### Important details

| Best for groups of | 3-4, up to 24 total participants |
| --- | --- |
| Preparation time | 15-20 minutes |
| Duration | 30 minutes |
| Required materials | * Lego (or similar blocks) structure
* Enough Legos (or blocks) to build the structure for each team
* Timer
* Fun music, such as The Lego Movie soundtrack
* Prizes for the winning team members (optional)
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| Required location | * Indoors or outdoors
* Table or building surface
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| Noise level | High |

## **How it works**

#### Instructions

Before conducting the activity (15-20 minutes):

The facilitator should build, or enlist a helper to build, a structure made out of Legos or similar block materials and hide it out of sight in another room. The more complex the structure is, the harder it will be to recreate for the groups, so choose a medium level that will offer some challenge.

Conducting the activity:

Introduction and game (30 minutes):

The facilitator should divide participants into groups of 3-4 people and give each group a box of Legos or similar building blocks, in the same quantity, size, etc. that the facilitator used for their structure.

The facilitator will inform the groups that they will have up to 30 minutes to recreate their structure, and that the group that first completes their structure as close to the original as possible will win the challenge.

The catch is that only one team member from each group will be allowed to go to the other room and peek at the original structure for 15 seconds. This person will then need to run back to their group and describe what they have seen in order to begin building their structure. The facilitator should monitor and time these “peeks” and repeat this process every five minutes with a new team member until everyone in the group has gotten a chance to see the original structure.

Optional: the facilitator will present the winning team members with a small prize.

#### Rules

Participants cannot photograph, draw, or take notes about the original structure.

#### Example

None

## **Materials**

#### For facilitator

Lego block structure

Timer

Fun music

Prizes (optional)

#### For attendee

Lego (or similar blocks)