

## Blanket flip - Collaboration

### EXPLANATION:

Can you flip something over while you're standing on it? This challenging game, Blanket flip will require students to problem-solve, think creatively and work as a team to find a way to flip the blanket.

**YEAR LEVELS:** Years 1–3

**STUDENT GROUPING:** Small group activity

**ACTIVITY LENGTH:** 20 – 30 mins approx.

### LINK TO CURRICULUM:

**Health and Physical Education: Sequence of content F-10 Strand:**

**Movement and physical activity** - Learning through movement sub-strand

**Teamwork and leadership:**

- Use strategies to work in group situations when participating in physical activities
- Adopt inclusive practices when participating in physical activities

**Critical and creative thinking in movement:**

- Propose a range of alternatives and test their effectiveness when solving movement challenges
- Apply innovative and creative thinking in solving movement challenges

***Personal and Social Capability learning continuum:***

**Social awareness element**

- describe similarities and differences in points of view between themselves and people in their communities
- describe factors that contribute to positive relationships, including with people at school and in their community

**See also Personal and Social Capability learning continuum sub elements:**

- Communicate effectively
- Work collaboratively
- Negotiate and resolve conflict.

## SCOPE OF TASK:

**Some notes about collaboration:** When collaborating, children have the chance to communicate with each other and work towards a common goal. It involves co-operation and teamwork and the sharing of ideas, knowledge and skills. Learning to work as part of a team is important in supporting the development of many social skills such as empathy, respect for others, listening, compromise and perspective.

1. Explore with the children the concept of collaboration and teamwork. Ask students questions to determine their prior knowledge:
  - What is teamwork?
  - Why is it important to be a team member?
  - What are some ways to be a good team member?
2. Arrange children in groups of approx. 4 – 6 people or allow to self-select.
3. Share the details of the game with the children: While standing on top of a completely open blanket or tarp, the group must create a plan to get everyone on the opposite side of the tarp without anyone stepping off. That is, they need to turn the blanket over and everyone stand on the other side. Game instructions are:
  - Lay a blanket (or a tarp) flat on the ground
  - The group of children stand on the blanket
  - They come up with a plan on how to turn the blanket over without anyone getting off the blanket

### Hints:

- When first conducting the game/activity make the group sizes smaller – as this will make the task simpler – the less children on the blanket the easier it is to turn over.
  - With experience group sizes can be larger which will require greater communication and negotiation skills.
4. Before the children begin pose some questions to encourage thinking about how they might complete the task:
    - How could you turn the blanket if you are standing on it?
    - Can you roll or fold the blanket?
    - Where could you stand on the blanket to help you turn it?

Provide students 10mins to discuss how they will complete the task and then teams are given a start and finish time – approx. 15mins.

5. At the completion of the activity time each group can share details of how they completed the task (or why they couldn't). Some questions they could consider when reflecting on their activity:
  - Did you have a strategy on how to flip the blanket?
  - Did everyone contribute ideas, or did you have a leader?
  - What were the successful strategies?
  - What were the not so successful strategies?

- How did your team communicate?
- Did the group experience any frustrations?
- What would you do differently next time?
- How can we use what we learned through this experience in situations outside the game?

6. In reflection, question the students to identify what skills are critical to collaboration – document these on a whiteboard for students' reflection.

## **RESOURCES:**

- Blankets or tarp