

HOW COMMUNICATION WORKS

Designed to help 4-H members:

- Recognize that communication is a two way process, both sending and receiving
- Listen to directions
- Ask clarifying questions

Giving clear and accurate directions is something we will all be called upon to do at some points in our 4-H, school or work lives. We may also receive directions which leave us somewhat confused. Communication is a two way street - the sender needs to give a clear message BUT the receiver must also be prepared to accept the message - be an active listener and be sure you are "tuned in " to the sender. A lot of what we receive is "coloured" by what the receiver brings to the message.

This activity will illustrate what happens when the two way process isn't working - the communication is only going in one direction, and then what happens when the receiver is communicating with the sender as well.

Each participant will require a pencil and a piece of paper.
Divide the group into pairs.

Give one of the drawings and directions to one person in each pair. Give the second set to the other person.

1. Have the first person read the directions slowly to their partner. The partner is to draw what is described to them. When complete, compare the two drawings. Do they match?
2. Now have the second partner read the directions and the first partner do the drawing. This time the drawer is allowed to ask questions to clarify what they are being told. Complete the drawing. How does this drawing compare to the directions?

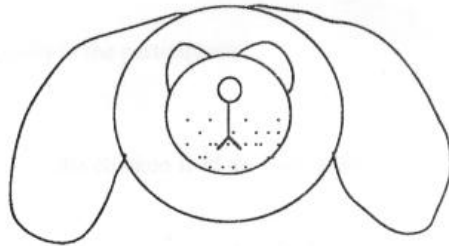
Was it closer to the original? Why do you think it turned out better or worse?

HOW COMMUNICATION WORKS

Participants need a pencil and piece of paper. The group leader should give the following instructions to the participants:

1. Draw a stick figure of a man without arms.
2. The man is now feeding the chickens. Draw in the chicken feed as it sprinkles on the ground.
3. Fence in the area around the man where the chickens are fed. This is the farm.
4. Draw two hills behind the farm.
5. Fence in the two hills and the farm.
6. Draw two flower beds on each side of the farm.

If the participants are lucky and follow communications well, the picture they may end up with will look like the "doggie" beside. Of course, it may not either!



Part II

Participants need a pencil and piece of paper. The group leader should give the following instructions to the participants:

1. Draw a stick figure of a man without arms.
2. The man is now feeding the chickens. Draw in the chicken feed as it sprinkles on the ground.
3. Fence in the area around the man where the chickens are fed. This is the farm.
4. Draw two ponds on the farm.
5. Draw a canoe in each pond.
6. Draw two mountains behind the farm.
7. Fence in the mountains and the farm.
8. Draw two flower beds below the last fence you drew.
9. Draw a windy dead-end lane to the right of the fence.

If the participants are lucky and follow communications well, the picture they may end up with will look like the "cat" below. Of course, it may not either!

