

GEMS—Hidden Building:

The goal of this activity is to teach the girls that true collaboration and cooperation must include a shared goal and vocabulary.

Materials needed:

For each pair of girls:

- 2 identical bags of 20-30 Legos
- File folder or test divider
- Chairs and tables set up so that girls sit across from each other and cannot see each other's work

Procedure:

- Divide girls into pairs—they can choose or you can randomly choose
- Move girls into places before giving out supplies
- Have the pairs identify who is going to be the director and who will be the producer
- Set up the work spaces with the file folders between the pairs.
- Give out the supplies

Directions:

- Directors' responsibility:
 - To build a structure/object using all the Legos, and give directions to the Producer so that she can duplicate it
- Producers' responsibility:
 - To follow the directions and build the exact structure that the director builds without looking

Discussion/Reflection:

- Remove the barriers and compare the builds. What happened?
- What worked?
- What didn't work?
- Why?
- What can you change?

Take apart the structures and repeat—using some of the lessons learned. The director and producer can keep their jobs, or can change places.

Discussion/reflection:

- How did it work this time?
- What worked?
- What didn't?
- What did you learn?