



Balled Up

Description

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Students work together and learn to cooperate by untangling a web of yarn.

Supplies

- Ball of yarn

How to Play

1. Have students stand in a circle that is spread out and has some space between each student.
2. Start with the ball of yarn, hold on to the end of it, and gently toss the ball to someone across the circle.
3. That student takes a piece of the yarn and holds it in their hand and then tosses the ball of yarn to another student in the circle, making sure not to let go of the piece in their hand. This continues until every student has a piece of yarn.
4. Now that every student has yarn, the group must work together to untangle the web without letting go.
5. If time permits challenge them in a variety of different ways including:
 - Make it a race to beat their previous time
 - Have students give a compliment to whoever they are tossing the yarn to
 - Make a rule that students are only allowed to use one hand during this activity

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- What was one thing that made it difficult for us to work together as a team during this activity?

- What was one thing that we did really well when working together as a team during this activity?
- Did anyone feel listened to during this activity? If so, how and why? If not, why not?
- If we were going to do this activity again, what would you do differently to help the group? Why?

Other Ways to Play

- Have the students sit on the ground and roll the yarn to each other for the first round to make it a little easier.
- Have students toss it around the circle twice so that each student has two different parts of the yarn that they are holding on to in each hand.

Additional Notes

- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.

Category

1. Activities
2. Relationship Skills

Sel-competency

1. Relationship Skills

Allotted-time

1. 20 minutes

Themes

1. Work Together-Teamwork