



Hungry Caterpillar

Description

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Students work together as a team to gather as many “leaves” as possible.

Supplies

- Hula hoops (enough for each student to have one)
- Balls/cones/blocks or any objects you have handy that can be spread around a large space

How to Play

1. Put students in teams of 4-5.
2. Explain that their team makes up one caterpillar. The goal of this activity is to be the caterpillar that collects the most “leaves.” Show them the leaves (objects) and scatter them around the designated space.
3. Give each student a hula hoop and have students stand in the center of their hula hoop in a line with their teammates.
4. Explain that in order to move forward, the last student in the caterpillar line must step into the hula hoop of the player in front of them, pick up their empty hula hoop and pass it overhead to the front of the line. The front player then places the hoop on the ground in front of them and steps into it. Every player then shifts forward, moving the caterpillar.
5. Only the front player is allowed to pick up leaves, but it is the team’s job to carry the collected leaves throughout the game.
6. The game ends when there are no more leaves on the ground. The winning team is the caterpillar with the most leaves.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- Did anyone receive praise during this activity? If so, what was it?
- Who would like to give positive feedback to someone on their team?
- What was one way you were able to be supportive of others during this activity?
- Did anyone prove they could be trusted during this activity? How?

Other Ways to Play

- If you don't have enough hula hoops for each student, play different rounds with a set time and keep track of how many 'leaves' each caterpillar team collects in the designated time.
- Make different objects worth different amounts of leaves. Tape leaves to the various objects and at the end have students calculate their total. This will help teams talk through a strategy of what objects to go to first, etc.

Additional Notes

- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.
- The more "leaves" that are scattered around the space, the longer this activity will take.
- Have younger students practice moving their caterpillar before the activity actually begins.
- Take time at the beginning for students to decide their strategy and who will be where in the caterpillar line.

Category

1. Activities
2. Relationship Skills

Sel-competency

1. Relationship Skills

Allotted-time

1. 15-20 minutes

Themes

1. Work Together-Teamwork