GET PUZZLED

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Description: This is a simple but fun “find your partner” game which gets people moving.

Objective: Highlight the benefits of interaction and collaboration in problem solving

Time: 15 minutes

Audience: Any group

Group Size: Up to 12 people

Materials: Puzzle with one piece per participant

Process: 1. Create or purchase a basic puzzle with large pieces. Have enough pieces so every learner gets one.

2. Mix the puzzle pieces up and give one to each participant.

3. Explain that they have to find their partner who is someone with whom their puzzle piece connects. (To add an element of competition, prizes could be given out for those who found their partners first or who completed within a specified timeframe.)

4. Once the partners are found, instruct all the participants to work together to put all the pieces together to create a single picture.

Debrief: Use this activity to illustrate the importance of finding the right relationships in business or the right pegs for the right holes! Additionally, you could explore how success can be more effectively achieved through a systematic approach and collaboration with others. Most technical training involves the learning of systems and procedures, and this activity can help them start thinking about the “big picture” aspects of the session. The puzzle picture could also be used as a metaphor during your training.

Variations: A range of partnered objects could be used in place of puzzles.