

Attack the Stack Activity

This activity can be done as a fast-paced competitive game or as small group discussion. Early childhood educators are often open to activity-based learning and may appreciate the opportunity to move around. Have fun with it. This is a great time to add some energy and excitement to your lesson. Follow the instructions below for the game.

However, if you feel that your group is more staid, you may want to conduct this as a small group discussion. If conducting as a small group discussion, divide into small groups. Hand out copies of the scenario to each group. Read the scenario to the audience and relate the directions for the activity. Give each group a set of the cards and ask them to sort the items into three stacks: trash, file and secure storage. Allow a few minutes for the groups to sort the cards. Read through the list of items, asking where the groups placed the items. Some groups may have placed identical items in different categories. Allow for discussion about why they placed the items where they did.

Supplies:

- Scenario – read aloud, have copies for groups/teams
- Papers – labeled cards for items to be sorted
- Sorting containers – these can be boxes, baskets, etc. You'll need to label them for "trash," "file" and "secure storage."
- Stopwatch or timer

Depending on the size of your audience:

- Divide into small groups (for a medium audience)
- Divide into teams (for a small audience)
- Ask for volunteers from about 4 different locations in the audience – for example front right, back right, front left, back left – let each section of the audience root for their representative (this option is for a large audience)

Read the scenario to the audience and relate the directions for the activity. If using groups or teams, hand out copies of the scenario to each group or team. Give each group/team a set of cards or materials to be sorted. The objective of the activity is to sort the items into the appropriate containers as quickly as possible. No peaking at the cards or list of items until the timekeeper says "Go."

Start the timer and say "Go." Note the time when the first team completes the activity. Allow time for most or all of the groups to finish. Lead the audience in applause for all groups. You might want to make a special cheer for the first-place team.

Follow-up discussion – Read through the list of items, asking where the groups placed the items. Some groups may have placed identical items in different categories. Allow for discussion about why they placed the items where they did.