

Icebreakers / Team Builders

Activities like the name game never get old. A student says their name and an adjective or something they like; usually the word begins with the same letter as their first name. Each subsequent student has to repeat every student (plus word) who has gone before them. It's a great way for campers to learn team members' names, as well as team leaders / games leader.

Pretzel / Pretzel

(can do one pretzel per team)

Divide your class in half and have each group choose one pretzel maker and two unpretzlers. Direct the unpretzlers to turn their backs. Have the rest of the students in each group form a circle and hold hands. Now, have the pretzel maker direct the students (with words only) to twist around, step over, and duck under one another's arms to form a human pretzel. Once they are sufficiently twisted, call the unpretzlers over and have them try to direct the students (with words only) in order to untangle them. Students cannot drop their hands at any time. The first team that successfully unpretzels their group wins. (being able to get out means you win...even though it's just one team)

Seeing spots

For this activity, you'll place a colored sticker dot (blue, red, green, or yellow) on each student's forehead without them knowing what color it is. When the game begins, each "team" of students (with the same color) must find each other—*without speaking*. This is a wonderful team-building activity because it encourages non-verbal communication and cooperation.

Common thread

(can have students sit in a circle and find a common thread with the person on each side of them) Divide students into groups of four and have them sit together in these small groups. Give each group five minutes to chat among themselves and find something they all have in common. It could be that they all play soccer, or pizza is their favorite dinner, or they each have a kitten. Whatever the common thread, the conversation will help them get to know one another better. Check in with the groups after five minutes to see if they need more time. After each group has come up with their common element, have them work together to create a flag that represents it.