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Cooperative Games to Build Positive Relationships, Collaborative Capacity and an Appreciative Eye

ABSTRACT

Creative, cooperative and improvisational games offer new opportunities for people to get connected-- in therapy, in education, and in organizations. Dawn will introduce the concepts and principles of Cooperative Games and will invite everyone to play and experience a few games that are great for deepening relationships and building cooperative capacity within a school or classroom. Cooperative and collaborative games provide the students and faculty opportunity to play together, to learn in a safe way, to be inclusive, to appreciate one another, and to have fun together. All this builds relationships, respect, and cooperation.

Dawn will also introduce a program she developed called "The Peaceful Playground." Participants will learn about the Peaceful Playground Program where cooperative games are taught and played on the playground helping to bring out the collaborative and appreciative capacity of students. In this program, adults or high school student volunteers are trained in Cooperative Games and then organize the games during recess or play time for younger students. Participants of this workshop will gain the tools and materials to begin their own cooperative games program at their school. Introducing cooperative games to students provides the opportunity to learn in a safe environment, to cooperate, to look for collaborative options, and to see themselves and the group in positive ways. Cooperative games and teambuilding activities are also a great way to work with teachers and college students to build their collaborative and appreciative capacity.