

## **Public and Private Places Activity**

This activity is best played with a smaller group of individuals (between 2-10 people), but could be altered to play with individuals in a larger group or one-on-one setting. It was created to be played with those with developmental disabilities in an effort to provide accurate and positive relationship and safety information.

Depending on the group you are working with, you can take cards out of the deck that you do not think are appropriate or that you do not want to discuss at the time.

### **What you will need:**

- Public and Private Places cards
  - Places cards depict various public and private places.
  - There are two additional cards that say PUBLIC and PRIVATE in order to sort the cards in visual piles.
- The green flags (yes, go, thumbs up) and red flags (no, stop, thumbs down) – these can be found in a separate document called, *Red and Green Flags for expressing thoughts, feelings and opinions*

### **How to play the activity:**

Prior to beginning the game, each participant will be given a red and green flag. The facilitator will explain that the flags will be used to express individual opinions on whether or not the Places being discussed are public or private.

- Green flags will indicate that the participant thinks the place is public.
- Red flags will indicate that the participant thinks the place is private.
- It is ok if participants put up both flags; be sure to discuss why two flags may be appropriate
  - e.g. Public bathroom: it can be both public and private. Discuss what this means and how a person should navigate this space.

To play the activity the facilitator will hold up the Places cards one at a time and ask the group whether or not they think it is a public or private space. The facilitator might say "This is a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_, what kind of space do you think this is? Is it public, or private? Lift the

red or green flag to tell me what you think.” You can tailor this question to meet the needs of the group. Participants will indicate their answer with the flags provided.

If a participant cannot decide, the facilitator may ask questions such as, “what types of activities do you do in this space?” or “who else is allowed in this space when you are in it?” These types of questions will allow the participant to consider what makes the space public or private. If all participants raise a flag without hesitation, it is still suggested that the facilitator follow up with the group to ask why they believe the place is public or private. This is especially important when the group is divided in their responses.

The facilitators will then discuss the card and explain to the group why it is public or private and explain what activities may take place in the space that make it public or private. It is also beneficial to explain what activities should not take place if it is a public space.

For example, if the image is of a living room, the facilitator will explain what makes this space public. In essence, the fact that other people who live in the house can come and go as they please means that this space is not private. After explaining what makes it a public space, the facilitator may then explain what activities are not appropriate to do in a public space like this such as taking off clothing or masturbating.

Once the answer is explained to the group, the facilitator will place the card into the PUBLIC or PRIVATE pile, and will continue to do so for the remainder of the cards.

Once you are finished discussing all the cards you can ask participants if there were any places not in the activity that they would like to talk about.

### **Other variations:**

**Large group:** Break the large group into smaller groups to play as described above. This variation only works if you have multiple facilitators and multiple sets of cards.

**Individual Session:** If you are working with an individual in a one-on-one setting the activity can be played the same. You may want to emphasize certain cards or leave out cards. You may or may not choose to use the flags.

# Coffee Shop



# Car - Van - Truck



# Public Bathroom





# Bathroom at Home



# Swimming Pool



# Locker Room





# Living Room



# Store Change Room





# The Park





# The Library





# Kitchen



# Backyard





# Bedroom



# The Bus





# Day Program



# Doctors Office



PUBLIC

**PRIVATE**