

Time Bank Card Game

This is a useful opener for explaining about time banks

Here is what I do and it needs to be explained very clearly, preferably with instructions on a flip chart

- 1) Make up two sets of cards (wants and offers) by copying the attachments onto different coloured card and chop them up into individual cards
- 2) Give out individual and organisational cartoon questionnaires to workshop participants. This is to give them ideas on what they might want to receive and what they can offer. Ask them to think of 3 offers and 3 wants. If they find this difficult, ask them to think of 3 things they like doing and 3 things they don't like doing.
- 3) Get them to write on the back of 3 wants cards three things they want, and similar on the offers card for their 3 offers.
- 4) Explain what happens next. They mingle and ask people what they are offering and wanting. IF THEY FIND SOMEONE WHO OFFERS THE SKILL THAT THEY WANT, THEY GIVE THE WANT CARD TO THAT PERSON. Ie people keep the offers cards - if people offer language tuition, they can offer it any number of times, its their skill, so they retain it. DO NOT PASS ON OFFERS CARDS.
- 5) Explain that when you stand up and shout stop, everyone stops (people enjoy the game and don't want to stop)
- 6) Off they go. Start mingling. Write your own cards and join in to keep the pace flowing, but like I said, people love this and it brings time banking to life for them.
- 7) When they have stopped and sat down (4-5 mins depending on group size) draw out the following points:
 - A) People who have no want cards left (they've given them all away) have lots of needs and are excellent in a time bank because they keep the flow of exchanges going. A time bank needs people with needs, otherwise it stagnates. Getting people to say what they want is often difficult (in fact tuition in asking for what you want should be part of a time bankers induction process)
 - B) People who have lots of wants cards (they have lots to offer) are excellent in a time bank for a similar reason to A)
 - C) People with lots of wants because they didn't find someone who could do the skill they were looking for - evidence of need for diversity in a time bank - the more diverse in all senses of the word the better
 - D) How many people found things that people were offering that they didn't have on want cards but would have liked to try? Evidence of need for newsletters with lists of skills on offer or public notice boards.
 - E) State that it is easy for people to chat in this situation, but that even if we all lived in the same street or block of flats, chances are that we wouldn't know all our neighbours, let alone know their hidden talents. So a broker is great to set up exchanges and makes it easy for people to meet and share skills.

Beware: no matter how well you explain it, people will forget to just give the want cards and keep the offers cards, but most of the time they get by just fine.

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Wants

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers

Offers