DON’T DROP ME!

Focus:  Teamwork, Cooperation, Assisting others

Time:  10-15 minutes

Objectives:

1. To work together to solve a problem
2. To offer help to others and to accept help from others

Materials needed:

• One plastic straw per participant
• One 3x5 card folded in half

Introduction:

This activity works best with groups of eight or more people. The purpose of this activity is to create a feeling of cooperation with departments as well as to provide an opportunity to demonstrate teamwork.

Directions:

1. Participants form a semi-circle
2. Provide one straw to each participant
3. Ask each participant to put one tip of the straw between their lips like a cigarette and hold it there
4. Beginning at one end of the semi-circle, balance the 3x5 card at the fold on the first person’s straw. Tell the group to imagine that the card represents a colleague who needs their assistance to solve a problem or to complete a task.
5. Ask the first person to pass the card onto the straw of the second person, without using hands and without dropping the card.
6. The second person should now pass the card to the third person without dropping it.
7. Continue the activity until the entire group has received the card.
8. If at any time the card is dropped, the activity must begin again with the first person.
9. Encourage participants to cheer each other, provide verbal instructions to each other, etc. But they cannot remove the straw from their mouths.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did the group have to do to be successful at this activity?
2. Are you ever in a workplace situation where you must rely on others to be successful? Are you able to accept suggestions/assistance from others? Are you able to provide help to others? Why or why not?
3. Did you notice a time when everyone in the group was focused on keeping their “colleague” from falling?
4. Did you feel a group “let down” when the colleague was dropped?
5. What strategies can your department utilize to make sure that colleague’s who need assistance are never “dropped?”