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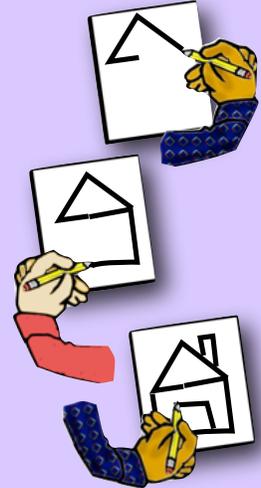
**Why Cooperative Games Can Be A Great Part Of Many Of Your Group Therapy Sessions:**

Clinicians often incorporate a game theme activity to motivate their clients to participate and complete the session's goals. Cooperative Games are those activities that emphasize participation and group effort rather than competition. The goal is to work together to accomplish a task rather than defeat opponents! A winning outcome is enjoyed by all, not just one.

**Cooperative Picture Drawing!**

The only materials needed are a piece of paper and a pencil! After completing their turn for their therapy goal work, each group member is given the pencil and allowed to draw one part of an agreed upon picture (such as: "house", "face", "farm", "truck", "spaceship", or "zoo", etc.). Everyone in the group takes a turn drawing in their addition of whatever piece of the picture they like (such as: "door" or "window", etc.) until "the house" drawing is complete. Hang the picture up when it is done to show off the accomplishment.

*Variations: 1. Add more art supplies (such as colored pencils, glitter glue, markers, etc.) to create more elaborate and detailed group art works.  
2. Rather than naming the goal picture in advance, the group may be allowed to add whatever drawings they wish on their turn for more creative group outcomes!*

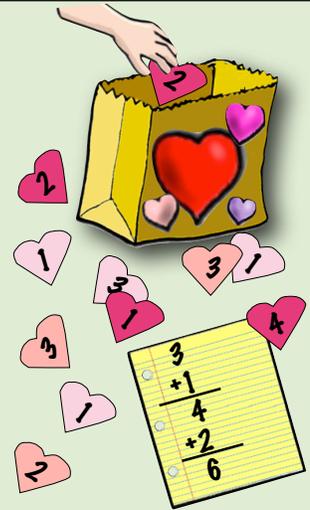


**Cooperatively Filling Up The Bucket!**

Start with a small container that has a lid, such as a clean empty oatmeal container. After each turn of their speech therapy goal work, each client is allowed to open the lid, and put in a crumpled paper ball or a safe soft toy block etc. into the container, and shut the lid. The group goal is to fill the container up so high that the lid cannot fit on anymore. Use different sized containers for different sized groups and lengths of sessions!

**Cooperative Number Grab Bag! How High Can We Go?**

Use a large sized winter stocking cap or a paper lunch bag as a reach-in bag for this "number count-up game". Prepare beforehand by cutting up card stock paper into equally sized small cards. Write a small number on each card, mostly "ones" and "twos" and a few "threes" and "fours". These will be put into the bag for the clients to take turns pulling out one-by-one after they complete their turn at their speech goal work. The number on the card that each group member pulls out on their turn gets added to the grand total. Keep adding up the numbers on a paper with the simple goal of seeing how high of a number the group can build up. The group will be excited to see the grand total that they all contributed to by the end. (Variation: Make the number cards into seasonal theme shapes such as 'leaves for Fall', 'snowflakes for Winter', 'Hearts', 'Clovers', etc. Decorate the bag as well: 'pumpkin', 'snowman', etc. Add a "double total" or "pick two more" card for extra excitement!)



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