

How to play:

1. Place yoga dots on the floor or chairs where you would like youth to sit – ensure that these yoga dots or chairs are at a safe physical distance from one another.
2. Ask the youth to sit on these yoga dots or chairs, and remind them the importance of staying in these spaces throughout the game to ensure their own safety and the safety of their peers.
3. On a flipchart or a whiteboard in front of where the youth are sitting, the facilitator should draw a tree with roots, a trunk, branches, and leaves. Make the parts of the tree large enough so that you can write in them and that the writing be visible.
4. Tell youth that the tree is the 'Welcome Tree'. Inside the trunk, write the following:
Inclusion of refugees and newcomers in the community.
5. Explain that the roots of the tree represent the underlying causes of **exclusion**, the branches represent **strategies for promoting inclusion**, and the leaves represent the **positive outcomes** on individuals and the broader community.
6. Ask the youth individually to think about: 1) identifying possible causes of exclusion of refugees and newcomers; 2) identifying ways to address these underlying causes (eg come up with ideas for promoting inclusion); 3) describing the positive outcomes that inclusion and respect for diversity have on individuals and the broader community. Give them a few minutes to think of these answers. They may write them down, but they may only do so on their own equipment. They may not borrow equipment from other youth.
7. Ask the youth to share their thoughts with the group by raising their hand, starting with question 1 and ending with question 3. Make sure that there is discussion about these questions. As a facilitator you – and only you - will be writing their answers down.
8. Review the ideas with the group and ensure that the causes, strategies, and outcomes are clear to youth.

Group discussion:

Feel:

1. How do you feel about the discussion and ideas captured by the tree?
2. Did you feel like you were able to express all your ideas with the group?
3. How do you feel about the community we live in and how it welcomes refugees and newcomers?

Think:

1. You identified some of the causes for exclusion, what are some of the consequences of exclusion on certain people in the community?

Act:

1. What can we do to learn more about the issues faced by refugees and newcomers?

2. Can we put some of the strategies and ideas for promoting inclusion you suggested in the tree into practice?

Human rights education for building welcoming and inclusive spaces.

This activity uses our **3-step participatory approach** to promote learning about human rights and human rights values leading to action:

1. Children and youth participate in activities that promote learning about human rights and human rights values (e.g. inclusion, respect for diversity, responsibility).
2. Children and youth discuss how an activity made them feel, what it made them think about, and what they can change (act) in their own attitudes and behaviours and those of their peers.
3. Together children and youth take action to promote respect for human rights values and children's rights, and greater understanding, acceptance and inclusion in their classrooms, school playgrounds and communities.

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