M and M Activity

This activity is used to show how group size affects group performance and how supportive and defensive climates affect group outcomes.

To Prepare:

1. Fill a clear jar with M and M’s. Be sure you know how many candies are in the jar.
2. Prepare index cards with supportive and defensive behaviors. Han a card to each class member. Members are to act according to the instructions on the card.

Activity.

1. Have each person in the class guess how many candies are in the jar. Record their guesses.
2. Have class members get a partner. Have each set of partners guess the number of candies. Record the answers.
3. Continue to have the class regroup (groups of four, eight, etc.) combining existing groups. Groups guess the number of candies each time. Record answers each time.
4. Determine who is the closest to the correct number. The winner gets the candy. (Have baggies ready in case a large group wins or if you want your jar back.)

Discussion:

1. Group size.

When did you feel most involved? Needed? Comfortable?

Which group size worked best for you?

1. Climate:

Which members of your group were most helpful?

Were there members who seemed to hinder the group?