

IC Mini Challenges

Here are some Mini Challenges that you can present to your team using the bag of materials. You can manipulate the challenges by the materials you provide for each challenge and by the emphasis of points that you allot. When the point emphasis is more on the creative use of materials and design than on the actual height, you will encourage your team to take a bigger risk with non-traditional materials. Each challenge is 5 minutes.

1. Using two kinds of materials, build the longest line possible that can be picked up.
2. Using three kinds of materials, build the tallest tower possible that will stand on its own for at least 10 seconds.
3. Using two kinds of materials build a bridge from one chair to another.
4. Using three kinds of materials build a tower that is at least 10 inches high that will hold weight. (Weights can be bean bags, boxes of nails, anything of your own design)
5. Using two kinds of materials build a bridge that will hold weight.
6. Using four kinds of materials, build a course with at least 5 turns from a chair to the floor. Test your course with a marble.

In order to help the team build skills you can change the materials or challenge in any way you wish. Each time the team does the challenge a different way, have the team members discuss ways they can produce the most surprising results to get the most points.

Materials

Start with a One Gallon size zip bag. Add in any quantity/any size. Varying the number or items in the bag produces surprising new results. Add items to this list as befits your creative mini challenges!

Paper-type

Squares of toilet paper
sheet newspaper
sheets colored paper
sheets of aluminum
foil
index cards
mailing labels
envelope
small lunch bag
paper plate

Length type

craft sticks
spaghetti
1-foot lengths yarn or string
tooth picks
pencils
pipe cleaners

Cylinder-type

styrofoam cups
toilet paper tubes
straws

Round-type

cotton balls
small marshmallows
gumdrops
marbles
balloons

Other

paper clips
rubber bands

Remember that these materials may be used in any way imaginable. Don't put something in the bag that you want back or don't want thrown away.