

Guess who's coming for dinner

Main Activity

source: liaisons



45 minutes



15-25 people

Topic

Family influence, values, prejudice, stereotypes

Objectives

- Analyse the messages transmitted from our families about people with a different cultural or social background.
- Analyse the values behind those messages.
- Be aware of the role of the family in transmitting society's values.



Materials

Copies of the role cards
Paper and pens.

Steps

1. Explain to the group that this is a roleplay to explore the role of the family in transmitting ideas about people who belong to other social or cultural backgrounds.
2. Ask for 4 volunteers to play the roles (preferably two of each sex) and for 4 others to be special observers. The rest of the group are general observers. Tell each special observer to watch one of the people playing the roles and take notes of all the arguments they use. Decide which observer should watch which player.
3. Give one role card to each of the players and allow them 2 or 3 minutes to get into the role.
4. Prepare the scene: place 4 chairs in a semi-circle and explain to everyone that this is the living room of a house and that they are going to watch a family discussion. Give a signal, e.g. clap your hands, to start the roleplay. You will have to decide how long to let the roleplay run, depending on the way it develops. 15 minutes is a good length of time. Give a clear signal to indicate the end.

Jammin
Board



ARTS



NFE



INCLUSION

Debriefing

Start the evaluation by asking the actors how they felt. Then, ask each observer in turn to read out the arguments used by each of the actors to persuade the others of their point of view. Follow on with a general discussion with everyone.

You can ask:

- Were the arguments used similar to those you have heard in your own families?
- Would it have been different if, instead of being black, the boyfriend were the same colour as the girl?
- Would things have been different if, instead of a girl bringing home a boyfriend, it was a boy who was bringing home a girlfriend?
- What would have happened if the girl had announced that she had a relationship with another girl?
- What if it was the boy presenting his boyfriend?
- Do you believe that this kind of conflict is still common nowadays or is it something from the past?
- Has this happened to you or do you know of anybody in your neighbourhood who has faced a similar kind of challenge?

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Sample Statements

Card 1: a young woman You have decided to face your family and tell them that you want to live with your black boyfriend. You start the roleplay. You announce to your family that you are going to live with your boyfriend, who is black. Try to defend your decision and argue that you are going to make a stand to counter the prejudice against relationships between young people and especially relationships between young people of different origins.

Card 2: the mother Your daughter has a black boyfriend with whom she has a very close relationship. You love your daughter very much, but you do not understand how she could do this to you. You support your husband in everything he says. You do not threaten your daughter, rather you tend to feel sorry about the pain she causes you. You think the black boy will abandon her and that she will suffer a lot.

Card 3: the older brother Your sister has a black boyfriend with whom she has a very close relationship. In principle you do not care if your sister goes out with a black man, and in fact you defend the right for people to be free in their relationships. Nevertheless, when your mother says that he is likely to abandon your sister you start to think he might be using her. You show your concern and want to protect your sister.

Card 4: the father Your daughter has a black boyfriend with whom she is developing a very close relationship. You are the authority in the home, and you don't approve of your daughter's relationship. You represent the moral mainstream and you care about what people will say. You do not consider yourself racist but your daughter marrying a black is something different. Think of a strict father and argue as such.