

Game: How Many People Could You Infect?

Lesson

Getting sick with an infectious disease doesn't always just impact the person who becomes ill; play a game to explore the concept of disease transmission.

Materials

- 6-sided dice (2 per player)
- Notebook (or sheets of paper) and pen to tally infections by players

Instructions

- In this game, each player is sick with an infectious disease.
- Each player gets 2 dice. Each die represents a person or group of people with whom the player comes in contact.
 - Groups with odd numbers (1-, 3-, or 5-pip sides of die) represent people who are immune to the disease making the player ill.
 - Even numbers (2-, 4-, or 6-pip sides of die) represent people who are not immune to the disease (i.e., susceptible people).
- Gameplay:
 - 4-5 players at a time.
 - Write player names on the paper.
 - Players all roll their dice at the same time, noting the numbers they each rolled.
 - Each die is treated as a separate instance of interacting with other people.
 - If a die has an odd numbered side up, the disease does not spread to that person or group because they were all immune. That die is removed from game play.
 - If a die has an even numbered side up, the disease spreads to that group because they were susceptible. Each pip counts as a person infected.
 - By each player's name, tally how many people they infected based on the number rolled (2 pips = two infections, 4 pips = four infections, etc.)
 - If both of a player's dice are removed from play, they are done. Their score would be 0 others infected.
 - Rounds of play continue with players rolling their remaining dice and tallying their disease spread in the same manner until everyone is out of dice.
 - If the game goes too fast, (e.g. everyone rolls odd numbers on first round) start the game over.
 - If after several rounds players keep rolling even numbers and others are waiting to play, you may choose to end after 1 or 2 more rounds.
 - Tally each person's score, which represents the number of people they infected. The higher the score, the more they contributed to disease spread.