Video Transcript: Using Role-Play Activities in Group Sessions

[music]

Audio Description (00:00): Bringing Content to Life: Techniques for Effective Group Facilitation Video Series. A name tag lists the name Brittany.

Brittany (00:14): Using Role-play Activities in a Group Session. Role-play is an effective learning strategy that provides space for participants to practice real world scenarios. And learn skills like teamwork, negotiation, and active listening. These type of activities are especially important for youth who may be applying new knowledge or skills. This video provides tips that facilitators or group sessions can use to introduce and manage role-play activities. This video is part of a series on: Facilitating and Managing Groups. So, why role-play? A role-play is when a pair or group of participants act out or perform a story, taking on the role of a particular person or character. It's common for sexual and reproductive health education programs to use role-play activities to develop young people's interpersonal, and problem-solving skills, and to practice and develop positive behaviors.

Tips for introducing and managing role-play activities include Start with low-risk situations like short, scripted activities. Explain the context for the activity. Remind participants that group agreements still apply even when role-playing. Ask for volunteers to model the role-play. Give participants a choice as to how they want to participate: as a narrator, as an actor playing a role, as a note-taker answering reflective questions, or as an audience member. Provide clear guidance on when the scenario is complete. Give positive reinforcement for role-play participation. And allow time for the group to process the role-play; and have a structured method for providing feedback. Relying on your role-play instructions and group agreements might not be enough to ensure participants feel comfortable engaging in role-play activities.

As a facilitator, you might have to make a few changes to create a safe space for participants. For example, use gender neutral names in scenarios. Allow participants to practice before role-playing in front of a larger group. Model the activity with the co-facilitator, or a prepared participant first. Tell observers what to look for and how to offer feedback. Now let's watch a role-play activity in action.

Audio Description (02:28): Scene changes to Brittany speaking to a group of students during an activity.

Brittany (02:33): So, the role-played prompt is- you went to a restaurant, and there was something wrong with your food or drink. I want you and your team, each group, Team Ham and Team Cheese and Team Bread. You're going to talk to your group member and decide what does that role-play look like?

Speaker 1 (02:54): It took you long enough, I've been here for 45 minutes.

Speaker 2 (02:57): Excuse me, Sir... um I did not do that- I was just...

Speaker 1 (02:59): I didn't ask for your life story, give me the food. There's hair in my food!

Speaker 2 (03:04): Would you like to talk to the manager?

Speaker 1 (03:06): I don't- get the manager, I'm getting you fired, this is unacceptable, and it's undercooked!

Speaker 2 (03:12): Sir

Manager (03:12): So, do you wanna-

Speaker 1 (03:12): I paid $7 for this.

Speaker 2 (03:15): Could you come at me with a respectful manner then, we can solve the problem.

Brittany (03:19): What could he have done differently?

Speaker 4 (03:22): I'm sorry. Can I get a plate- Can I get a plate with food?

Brittany (03:25): All right, so you did ask for a plate with food, okay.

Audio Description (03:27): Scene returns to Brittany as she speaks to the audience.

Brittany (03:30): Remember, role-plays are fun activities that allow participants to apply what they're learning to a real-world scenario. Keeping those tips and strategies in mind can help you manage role-play activities and promote a positive group environment. Developed by the Reproductive Health National Training Center, RHNTC, Fact Forward.