

PPE Pictionary

Personal Protective Equipment

Overview

The premise of “Pictionary” is to take a word or phrase, and draw it in silence, while the drawer’s teammates try to guess the word or phrase. They can start guessing as soon as the drawer starts drawing, but the drawer cannot say anything or make any gestures (they can only draw) until someone guesses the right answer. At that time, they can say, “you got it” or another similar phrase.

Theme

The theme of this game is personal protective equipment. Also known as the “last line of defense,” personal protective equipment is all that stands between a person and a hazard. For example, a person wearing gloves while using bleach to clean a bathroom means that if the gloves fail, the person will be exposed to the bleach.

Preparation

Write each of the topics (found below) on separate pieces of paper prior to starting the game. To start the game, split the group into two teams (or more, depending on the size).

Game Play

Each team will decide who will draw first. You can flip a coin or roll a dice to determine which team draws first. The first drawer will pick, at random, a piece of paper with an item of PPE on it. They will then start to draw. As soon as they start to draw, their team can start guessing (out loud) what they believe the picture to be. As soon as a correct guess is made, the drawer stops and it becomes the next team’s turn.

To complete the game, there are three options:

1. Have both teams draw/guess at the same time for a set length of time. The team with the most amount of correct guesses wins.
2. Set a time limit for guessing each picture. If the team guesses within the time limit, they get a point. If they run out of time, they do not get a point and it becomes the next team’s turn.
3. No Points! Play as a large group or as teams, just to have fun and learn about some personal protective equipment.

Possible Topics

Safety glasses or goggles, Hard hat, Respirator (mask), Footwear (general or specific such as steel-toed boots or closed toed shoes), Gloves (general or specific such as disposable latex gloves or Kevlar cutting gloves), Hearing protection (general or specific such as ear-plugs or ear muffs), Safety Clothing such as aprons or safety vests.

Another option is to have a discussion about personal protective equipment first, and then let the drawers choose their own PPE to draw, based on something they have used in the past. Make sure they write down the word they will be drawing before they start, so they can stick to the regular rules

Personal Protective Equipment: Information for Discussion

Hazard Controls

Personal protective equipment is known as the “last line of defense” in hazard control because it does not remove the hazard itself—it only places a barrier between the worker and the hazard.

The best way to control hazards is through eliminating them. If that is not possible, then it is best to make changes so that the hazard cannot come in contact with a worker. For example, if you have a loud piece of equipment, instead of asking your workers to wear hearing protection, you could block off the equipment with walls and a door.

To illustrate that idea, think of your washing machine at home. It’s probably quiet, but let’s pretend it’s big and industrial and makes a lot of noise. How do you protect yourself and your family from that noise? Ideally, you would get rid of the washing machine and bring in a quieter one instead (elimination of the hazard). If that’s not possible, you could put your washing machine in the basement in a closed off room. This would reduce the noise in the areas of your house where you live (putting a barrier between the hazard and the people). If that’s not possible, consider only running the washing machine while no one is at home (controlling the exposure to the hazard). But if none of those options are available, your family would have to wear hearing protection while the washing machine was running. Although this might be effective in protecting their hearing, it would be a hassle and sometimes people would forget. This is a great example to show why PPE does work, but should be considered only when other, more permanent and reliable options, have been tried first.

PPE does not eliminate or reduce the actual hazard, it just reduces the risk to the person.

PPE should only be used:

- ◆ as an interim (short term) measure before controls are implemented;
- ◆ where other controls are not available or adequate;
- ◆ during activities such as maintenance, clean up, and repair where the regular controls are not feasible or effective;
- ◆ during emergency situations

Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time when you wore Personal Protective Equipment. What was the hazard it was protecting you from? Did it work? What would have been a better way to control the hazard?
2. Have you ever had Personal Protective Equipment that just didn’t work? This might be gloves that were required to be worn, but they were way too big and you couldn’t work with them, or safety glasses that fogged up so you couldn’t see? ... considering that PPE sometimes doesn’t work, what can you do in those situations to make sure you stay safe?
3. What are your three rights as a worker and how do they apply to PPE?