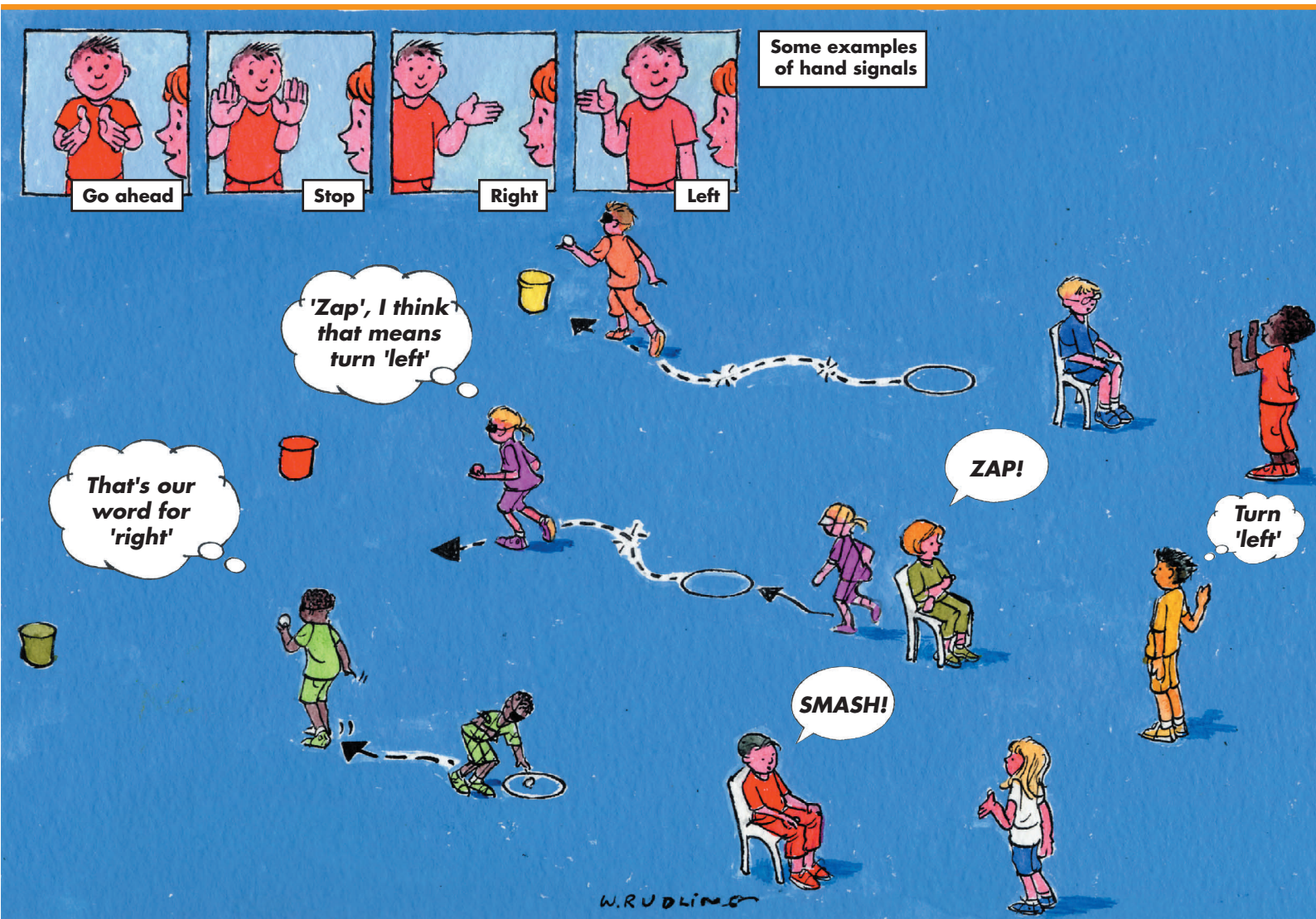


ROBOT RACE



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Activity

Aim: To guide the 'robot' to pick up a ball, and place it in a container.

Description: Teams are made up of three people, each of whom performs a specific task, outlined below:

Director

- Cannot speak or move from the spot.
- Can see where the Robot is working
- Can only give signals to the Caller, who must translate them into an agreed code or communication system.

Caller

- Interprets the 'code' from the Director to shout to the Robot.
- Cannot move and faces the Director

The Robot

- Is blindfolded.
- Follows the commands of the Caller using the pre-arranged 'code'.

It will be essential to allow planning time for the teams to develop a method of communication that does not involve direct instructions, such as 'turn left', turn right' etc.

ROBOT RACE

Safety Points

- Make sure the area is flat and clear of obstacles, although suitable obstacles could be added as part of any progression, see below:

Skills & Knowledge

- Generate ideas and express them.
- Try a variety of solutions.
- Identify problems to resolve.
- Analyse and review.
- Clear expression of instructions.
- Listen to others and their instructions.
- Adapt behaviour to suit different roles within a team.
- Collaborate with others in working towards common goals.
- Show initiative in the face of challenging activities.
- Demonstrate perseverance in completing a task.

Equipment

For each group:

- One chair.
- Ball – size dependent on level of participants.
- A container, that will allow for the ball to fit inside.
- One eyeshade.

Organisation

- Planning time is essential. Trial and error is not a good way of developing this exercise.
- Groups have to agree on a 'simple' code for directing the robot to be used by both the 'Directors' and 'Callers'.
- Each group should work out a different code.

Differentiation & Progression

- 'Caller' to give direct instructions.
- Shorten/lengthen the distance to walk.
- Introduce a few simple obstacles.
- Time limits to complete the task.
- Bring a competitive element into it with teams of three working to see who can complete the task first.
- Instead of transporting a ball plastic cups could be used to transport water from one container to another.
- Robot cannot speak.

Evaluation & Review

This is an excellent exercise to introduce peer assessment and evaluation, as groups of 6 can take it in turns to undertake the exercise and observe the other half of the group.

- Were the participants clear about the codes/communication system being used?
- Did they practice before they started the exercise?
- How did the 'Robot' feel being 'alone' and having to undertake the task?

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