

BUILD A MONSTER

In last week's training tip we suggested a group reflection activity in which your learners drew a customer service monster on the flipchart and added solutions for the problems the monster caused. This week's tip creates a different kind of monster. We'll apply it to an Effective Meetings learning programme.

We all know that ineffective meetings are the cause of huge time wasting and demotivation. This enjoyable activity will make an effective closer or reflection exercise, giving learners a chance to review effective solutions and strategies.

You need:

- Any useful waste materials eg empty yogurt pots and tins and boxes
- Straws, elastic bands, balloons, plastic cutlery
- Wooden blocks, plasticine, play doh
- Glue, prestik
- Arrow shapes pad* and markers
- Stones, leaves, seed pods, garden tools
- Anything else your imagination dreams up

You do:

- Begin with a quick reminder of the problems and issues that have surfaced during the workshop make a list of these issues on the flipchart.
- Divide learners into groups of four and supply each group with a pile of materials. Task the groups to build a monster that incorporates as many of the challenging meeting issues as possible. (Eg If a typical problem is a staff member who constantly sends and receives SMSes in meetings, you could build a monster mobile device!)
- Challenge groups to find solutions or coping mechanisms for each of the problems they have highlighted in their monster. Invite each team to share their monsters – and suggest your learners photograph them as memory joggers in the future.

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