

# Silent Line Up

Time: 5–10 min

**Purpose:** To practice communication and cooperation silently to complete a task as a group.

**Skills:** Communication, Conflict resolution, Cooperation, Noticing, Patience, Paying attention, Problem solving, Self-control, Team building

You  
will  
need...



- 4–30 players
- Early elementary age players or older
- Enough space for players to form a straight line

Before  
You  
Begin



- Prepare the reflection questions you will ask players in the debrief.

## Directions

**Introduce** the game Silent Line Up. Use this time to reinforce any established expectations that are important for players to remember during the game.

**Explain** that the objective of the game is to line up silently in order of birth dates (month and day).

**Designate** one side of the space to be Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and the other side Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Explain that no one is allowed to talk and players are to line up silently in order.

**Ask** players if they have any questions about the game.



**Give** time (two minutes) for players to form a line according to birth date.

When players are lined up, **tell** them to say their birth dates out loud to check that players are in the right order.



**Tip:** If players are successful, you could challenge players to line up by other criteria such as shoe size, height, number of brothers and sisters, number of years in school, etc.



**Explain to players that now they will reflect on how they experienced the game.**

## Debrief

**Debrief** the game with players. Remember, cooperative games are only as effective as your debrief. This is your opportunity to help players connect the game to personal experiences, actions, and beliefs. You will want to reinforce any skills or beliefs you are hoping players will carry beyond the game.

## DEBRIEF CONTINUED

For more on facilitating debriefs, refer to the [Debriefing Tip Sheet](#) on our Digital Activity Center.

We've included some suggested questions below to get you started.

**Ask:**

*What happened during the game?*

*What skills did we use during the game?*

*How was it to communicate without speaking? What worked well?*

*How can we use these skills to be better peacemakers?*

**Thank** players for their participation.