



ICEBREAKERS

An icebreaker can encourage people to participate in the presentation. An activity that has participants talking to one another makes everyone more comfortable in their surroundings. There are several different types of icebreakers described in the handout *Active Learning Activities*. There are some people who would rather not participate in icebreakers. Recognize this preference and always give people the option of not participating. Icebreakers can be used for different purposes.

GAINING ATTENTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Some kinds of icebreakers can make the participants enthusiastic about learning more about the topic. These icebreakers may focus attention on the material to be presented and their expectations for their learning: An example is 'My Point of View' (# 15 in *Active Learning Activities*) that you could use to immediately involve the participants in a training on BSP. Some stem sentences to use include:

1. The most important thing I want to leave the BSP training with is ...
2. The most difficult part of developing the BSP is ...
3. An experience I remember related to behavior plans is ...

GET ACQUAINTED

When participants do not know each other, provide an opportunity for them to introduce themselves. This will facilitate group activities when it is time to work together. Sometimes it is necessary to build excitement and interest in the presentation, perhaps because of the time of the day or because attendance was mandatory. In small groups it is not too time consuming for everyone to make a brief introduction: name, position, experience with BSP, etc. An example of a fun way for a large group to get to know each other is the Human Scavenger Hunt (#11 in *Active Learning Activities*).