“Picture This” Communication Activity

Suggestions for Use in Training

School nutrition directors, managers, or anyone providing training to employees may use this group activity to illustrate the importance of communication.

Preparation for the Activity

• Instruct participants to get into teams of two.
• Ask each team to determine who will be the listener and who will be the speaker.
• Give each speaker a copy of the activity handout and each listener a blank piece of paper.
• Make sure the listener does not see the picture.

Activity Directions

SAY: Here are the rules. The speaker must describe the picture he sees on the handout. The listener must try and draw the picture being described without peeking. Speakers, you may describe the picture however you want. Listeners, you may ask questions for clarification. You have 3 minutes to complete the activity.

ASK: Does anyone have any questions about the rules?

DO: After 3 minutes, ask everyone how they did and compare the results. Discuss how difficult it was to follow directions.

SAY: If we all work hard to improve our communication skills—both speaking and listening—we can have a positive impact on our operation.

Additional Handout

The Four Cs of Communication

Picture Diagram