

Baby Mall Lesson Plan

Session Focus: Diversity and Stereotype awareness

Name of Session [be creative]: Baby Mall

Session Objectives [what you will be accomplishing]:

- Experience limited discrimination through hands on experience.
- Interact with people who are acting out discrimination

Session Learning Outcome [what you want the RAs to learn and walk away with]:

- Understand how stereotypes and discrimination work throughout society to limit opportunities for people.
- See the differences in advantages between groups of people

Materials Needed:

- Paper babies, information cards for “parents,” (NOTE: the babies should be two different colors. One will represent marginalized populations and one will represent majority populations.)
- 6 shopkeepers and signs for shop keepers
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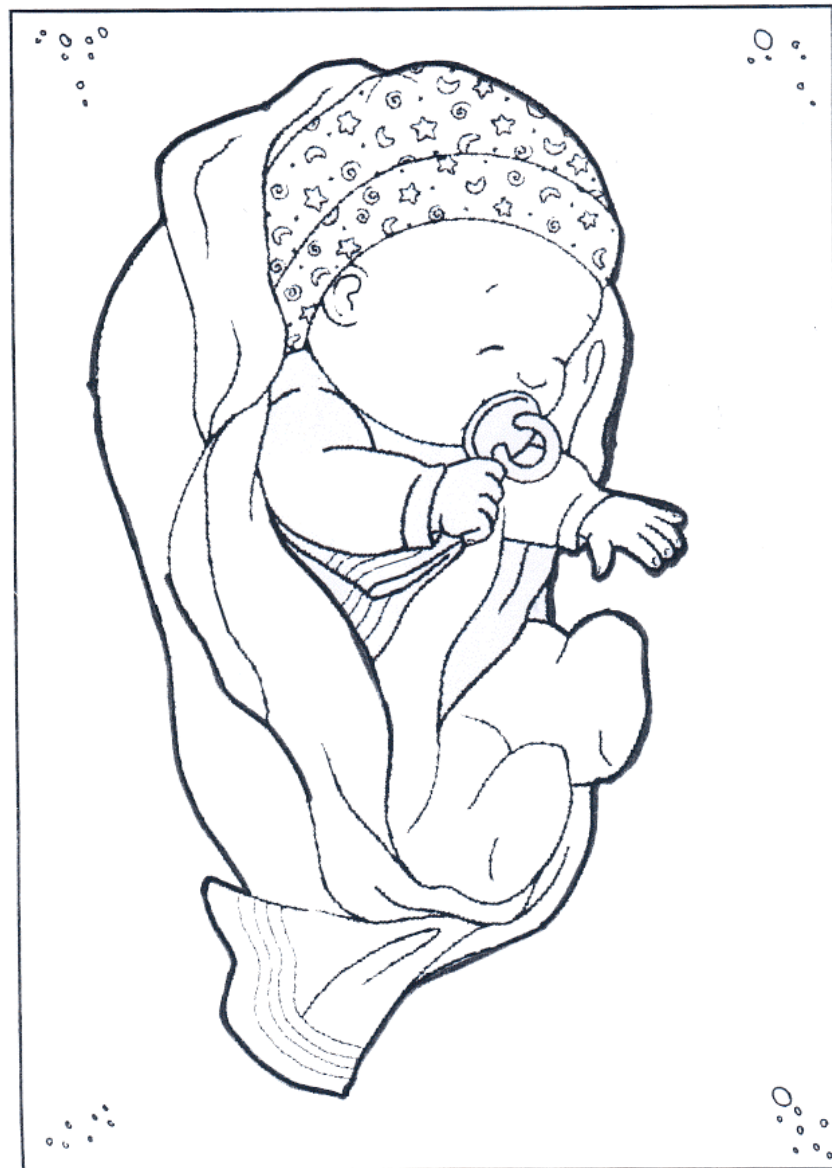
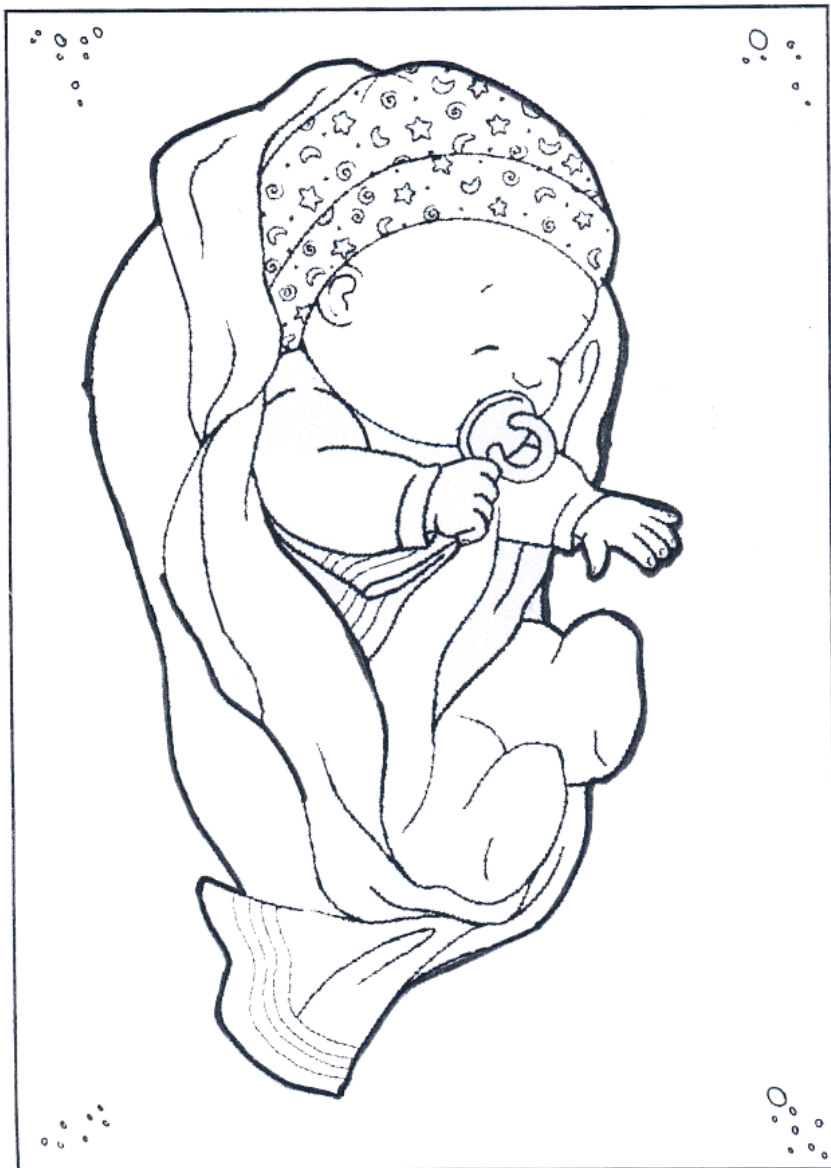
Session Outline

1. Prior to beginning, debrief the shopkeepers so they understand the purpose of the activity. The participants should never be made aware that there is a difference between the colors of the babies. The shopkeepers should have designated stereotypes for their characteristics.
 - NOTE: the prices on the sheet can be changed in the middle of the game as a way to give advantages or disadvantages to particular groups.
 - Example shopkeeper stereotypes:
 - Intelligence – do not sell above average to marginalized babies and/or charge more. Also give a discount to majority babies.
 - Athletic Ability – do not sell Pro to majority babies, or mark it up highly. Give discounts to the marginalized.
 - Education – Pay attention to the education of the parents, do not let the babies pass their parents too much. Also pay attention to marginalized status.
 - Musical Ability – Can be as arbitrary as how the parents look. Do they look artsy? Do they have any musical ability?
 - Bonus packs – favor the majority babies because they have been made the standard for humor, creativity, and integrity. Offer resiliency to marginalized babies “because they’ll need it.”
 - Other twists to add could be to favor same-gendered parents.
2. Have participants wait outside the Baby Mall
3. Instruct that the participants can pair up if they choose, but that it isn’t required. (If the participants know each other have them divide in some way. i.e. “If you prefer Pepsi products step to the left, if you prefer Coke products step to the right.”)

4. Explain that they will be choosing characteristics for their baby in the Baby Mall.
5. Hand each parent an information sheet with his or her income and degree.
6. Give every single parent or partner pair a single baby. The different colors should be randomized.
7. The participants should then have about 30-45 minutes to go through the baby mall and purchase characteristics for their babies.
8. Afterwards, have a discussion on what happened.

Follow up Questions (if Applicable)

- Did you get everything you want? Was that frustrating?
- What was going on with the shop keepers?
- In what ways do you think you were discriminated against?
- How did you overcome any road blocks?
- What portion of baby mall applies to the outside world?



Baby Mall

Parents:

Baby's name:

Intelligence:

Below Average

Average

Above Average

Athletic Ability:

Couch Potato

Intramurals

Professional Prospect

Musical Ability

Tone Deaf

Sings with the Radio

32nd Runner up on American Idol

Julliard Graduate

Education

High School

College

Master's

Doctorate

Bonus

Sense of humor

Creativity

Resilience

Integrity

Baby Mall

Parents:

Baby's name:

Intelligence:

Below Average

Average

Above Average

Athletic Ability:

Couch Potato

Intramurals

Professional Prospect

Musical Ability

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Sings with the Radio

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Julliard Graduate

Education

High School

College

Master's

Doctorate

Bonus

Sense of humor

Creativity

Resilience

Integrity

Intelligence

Below Average: \$20

Average: \$60

Above Average: \$180

Athletic Ability

Couch Potato: \$10

Intramurals: \$20

Pro: \$50

Education

High School: \$20

Bachelors: \$60

Masters: \$120

Doctorate: \$200

Musical Ability

Tone Deaf: \$20

Sings with the Radio: \$75

32nd Runner up on American Idol: \$125

Julliard Graduate: \$200

Bonus Packs - \$40 each

Sense of Humor

Creativity

Resilience

Integrity