

Switching Hats Enrichment Activity

Prior to starting these activities, discuss the various roles that are played in your enrichment program. Some of the roles play a big part in the enrichment initiative review process. Describe the activity that will be taking place and why the group is doing it.

Switching Hats Enrichment Initiative Review

The class will break up into small groups of three to six. Each small group will be given the same enrichment requests to review. Each group will be assigned a role and then asked to review the request wearing that "hat." The roles may include: Veterinarian, Nutritionist, Zoological Manager, Curator, and Behavioral Husbandry. Each group will have big paper to record answers to the following:

1. Given the "hat" you are wearing, list the top five issues you have when reviewing any enrichment initiative.
2. Given your perspective, do you feel the request has adequately answered the questions/issues that you have? In what ways does it meet your needs? In what ways does it need improvement to meet your needs?
3. Do you approve, not approve or approve with changes? Why?

After the team has had 20 minutes to review and discuss the requests, each team will pick a representative to present the information on their big paper. After the teams report out, they will watch a pre-recorded video of the staff Veterinarian, Nutritionist, Zoological Manager, Curator or Behavioral Husbandry review the same enrichment requests. The small group can have an opportunity to see how well they did at wearing their "hat."

The activity can be done without the videotaping of 'real' vets, nutritionist etc.