

LEARNING EXCHANGE PROTOCOL

Heads Up Heads Down Partnering

Note: All protocols have multiple origins. The strength of a protocol is in the ability of facilitators or planners to adjust/revise for use in your context. <http://www.nsrharmony.org/free-resources/protocols/a-z> is a good source of multiple protocols for school, district, community and organizational use.

This is typically used to establish partners for walking and talking. Because the partnering exercise is intentional, it is generally useful for partners that might re-connect over time during a learning exchange, conference or institute.

Step One: **All** stand in a large circle. Make accommodations for persons with disabilities so they can have full access to the activity.

Facilitator: The directions for this are quite simple. This is not a musical chairs contest although in our competitive society, it is hard not to try to stay in the circle as long as possible. The actual purpose of the exercise is to pair up. You will look down and when I say "heads up", you will look up and make contact with a person across the circle from you. If your eyes engage, meaning you both look at each other, step out of the circle, and form a pair off to the side until everyone is paired. Take a deep breath and put your head down.

The facilitator continues the heads up heads down until all have been paired.

Step Two:

Facilitator: This is your learning partner for _____ (example: learning walks and other activities during the learning exchange). Take some time to get to know each other.

If you wish, designate a time or a question for initial engagement.