

The Balloon Dog Game (BDG).

What is a Balloon Dog?



As the name suggests, it is a creation made from one balloon to look like a dog?

What is the significance of a balloon dog in SPHM Awareness Month?

One of the most important skills for a healthcare worker is the ability to be able to effectively pass on what they have learned to others. The balloon dog game (BDG) takes the healthcare worker through 3 different approaches to teaching others how to use the SPHM equipment. Each approach reflects a different reality. This game creates a lot of laughing, noise and fun in getting the message across about what and what not to do when teaching others.

What do you need for the Balloon Dog Game?

1. Balloons. They need to be the long sausage shape. Each team of 4-5 people will require approximately 10-12 balloons. Be mindful to ask the participants if anyone is allergic to latex, and if so it is best they either do not participate or, you use latex-free balloons. The balloons should be inflated to 80-90% capacity prior to the start of the game.

2. Instruction Cards. Each team needs one each of 3 different cards, one for each of the 3 phases of the game (see 'how to play the BDG'). Each card should be given to the appropriate person in the team at the beginning of the phase.

3. Teams. Each member of the team takes on a different role in each of the 3 phases (see how to play the BDG). It is best to keep the teams to no more than 5 people, but you can have an unlimited number of teams.

4. Timer/Facilitator. The facilitator will co-ordinate the feedback from each of the groups at the end of each phase of the BDG. They will also keep time.

How to play the Balloon Dog Game.

The BDG takes about 30 minutes to go through the 3 phases.

PHASE 1. Each team needs to nominate one person to do the activity. The role of the other members of the team is to watch but not get involved in any way. The nominated person will be given a balloon and Card 1, and will then be asked to make a balloon dog without any instructions being given to them. The individual making the balloon dog will be observed by the other members of the group who are not allowed to provide verbal instructions or assist in any way. 5 minutes is given for this activity, and 5 minutes for feedback.

PHASE 2. The team nominates a different individual to complete the activity. This person is given a balloon, and another member of the team reads out the instructions to make the balloon dog (card 2). The other team members observe, and again are not allowed to participate in any way. 5 minutes is given for this activity, and 5 minutes for feedback.

PHASE 3. The team nominates one person to read the instructions on how to make a balloon dog (card 2) and who also holds up a picture of the balloon dog (card 1). The rest of the team members follow the verbal instructions and are able to look at the picture of the balloon dog and encourage each other as they all make a balloon dog. 5 minutes is given for this activity, and 5 minutes for feedback.

The Balloon Dog Game Cards:

CARD 1. Copy a picture of the balloon dog at the top of this page onto a piece of card, one for each group. Title the card 'Balloon Dog' but do not add anything else to the card.

CARD 2. Make a card with the written instructions on how to make a balloon dog. Instructions can be found at <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Balloon-Animals> , You can simplify them as needed.

Facilitator Notes:

Phase 1. The purpose of phase one is to demonstrate how an individual feels when we make an assumption that they should know how to do something. The downside of this approach is likely to be shown through the feedback from the group and the individual conducting the task. It is not the approach that should be used, ever, unless it is made clear from the individual using the technology that they know how to use it or, you know they are competent in using it.

Phase 2. The purpose of this phase is to show that some people will learn through the direction of written instructions and a step by step process, but also that this approach is not for everyone. It works well for auditory learners but not for visual learners. This is likely to be shown through the feedback from the group and the individual conducting the task.

Phase 3. The purpose of this phase is to demonstrate that with step by step verbal instructions, visual prompts and encouragement from colleagues, the learning needs of most are met and they will be able to accomplish the task of making the balloon dog. This is likely to be shown through the feedback from the group and the individual conducting the task.

Take photographs of your balloon dogs being made by your teams and send them to info@SPHMAwareness.com and we will add them to the website.