

# “Don’t Rock the Boat”

## Group Initiative

### S & O



#### Montessori Connections:

- Building Community
- Grace and Courtesy
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Collaboration
- Cooperation

#### What You Will Need:

- Sheets of scrap or recycled paper
- Space to form a circle
- Chairs for each participant
- Bucket or medium-sized box or storage crate

#### What You Will Do:

- Form a circle
- Have everyone sit in a chair
- Tell the students that no matter what they do they cannot move at the same time
- Each command must be done in a ripple or wave
- Give everyone a sheet of paper and have them ball up paper

The first command is the wave is pushing the boat to the right-- one person (tour guide) leans to the right just enough to tap the person’s shoulder to the right, the next person leans and continues until the guide starts another command.

Second command: “Wave left--same person (tour guide) starts and leans to the left (ripple continues).

Third command: Signal for help--same person (tour guide) stands up and raises both hands then sits down and taps the person’s arm to the left or right--the wave begins

Fourth command: Boat has taken on water --get rid of some weight. The guide balls up the sheet of paper and throws it overboard (try to throw it in the rescue boat without the paper bouncing out). Rescue boat could be a small box, bucket or plastic tub.

At the end of the activity count how many lives were saved (paper balls)

#### Variations:

- Do this with blindfolds or with eyes clothes
- Mix up the commands or do them longer (several rounds of the same command).

- ❑ Have alternate tour guides call out the commands; this makes it tricky because the starting point for the wave changes. You never know when the boat is going to start rocking!

AOP:

1. What challenges did you experience during the activity?
2. What communication skills were most important?
3. How were grace and courtesy demonstrated?
4. How did you feel during this activity?