

# Research Activity 1

## **Kids will be kids**

As you are learning, in-group bias forms at a very early age as children learn from their parents, their friends, and their society around them. The next time you're at a park with a playground, spend a little time observing the children. Do boys tend to play with boys and girls tend to play with girls? What about the race of a child's playmates? As suggested in the article below, do children of the same race spend more time playing with each other? Finally, does age make any difference in who children tend to play with? Put these questions to the test and see how early the tendency to favor one's own group starts.

[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110621074310.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110621074310.htm)

# Research Activity 2

## **Linguistic bias**

Imagine your best friend is walking towards the supermarket. An old lady passes by with her groceries, but her bag breaks. All her groceries drop onto the street. Luckily your friend is not in a hurry, and bends down to pick up the old lady's groceries, putting them in her other bag.

Describe this action of your friend in one sentence.

This exercise demonstrates the linguistic bias.

# Research Activity 3

## **Out-group homogeneity effect**

Describe which characteristics two of your best friends have in common, and which they do not have in common. Do the same for two people who are each other's best friends, but who you do not perceive as belonging to your group.

This exercise demonstrates the out-group homogeneity effect (SP p. 201).

# Research Activity 4

## **How does it feel to be stigmatized?**

Do you feel bad for those who have experienced the negativity that goes with being a member of a stigmatized group? If you have never experienced anything like that, and you want to take a turn in someone else's proverbial shoes, consider the following activity.

Buy a large adhesive bandage and place it on your neck or your face so that it is readily visible (a medical eye patch over one eye will also work). Next, go out in public for at least an hour and take note of your personal reactions and the reactions of others. Do you feel self-conscious? Do you feel like everyone is looking at you? If you speak with anyone, do you feel like they're trying not to stare? Does anyone mention the bandage or do they all try to ignore it?

Consider completing this activity just to get the smallest glimpse of what stigmatized individuals experience every day of their lives.