

THE FOUR BUILDING BLOCKS OF DIALOGUE

Suspend Judgment

- Hold your positions lightly to open the door to another point of view.
- Create a space between judgment and reaction to open a door for listening.
- Create trust by not judging. We all talk more if we aren't judged.

Identify Assumptions

- Identify that which we think is so
- Identify that which is transparent to us
- Identifying assumptions helps us get to causal level of problem solving
- Identifying assumptions helps us explore differences with others, work toward common ground and consensus, and understand core of misunderstandings and differences

Listen to Learn

- Listen deeply, being willing to be influenced by and learn from others
- Listen to perceive meaning from both individual level and the group

Confirm by Inquiry and Reflection

- Learn to ask questions with intention of gaining more insight and perspective
- Listen to inspect information and perceive relationships
- Listen and reflect to allow learning, creative thinking, and ability to build on past experience rather than only repeating it