



## How to Start & Run a LEGO Club

Follow these steps to set up your own LEGO group or club. An ideal number for a starting group is 4, though it can grow as time goes on. This growth can be good for challenging established group dynamics and allowing children to adapt to and integrate new members.

1. Create an introduction with a clearly defined set of club rules. Here is a sample rule set:
  - Respect the creations of others
  - Share the LEGO bricks
  - Build on a theme, or build your own creation
  - Building stops 10-15 min. before the session ends to allow clean & wrap-up time
  - Clean up when you are done
  - Leave the LEGO bricks when the session is over
  - Have fun!
2. Introduce the concept and rules to children in individual sessions, where you should also work on a simple collaborative build with the child.
3. Children are then introduced to the group; ideally, the group should include members without social skills deficits.
4. Groups meet regularly (weekly is ideal) for about 90 minutes; during this time they undertake a collaborative LEGO building project (and sometimes other collaborative tasks), suited to participants' skill levels.
5. Roles and tasks are assigned anew during each session, with different responsibilities going to different members; typical roles include: Director, Engineer, Supplier, and Builder. Feel free to expand on these.
  - Director: Ensures that the team is working together and communicating
  - Engineer: Oversees design and ensures instructions are followed
  - Supplier: Keeps track of type and color of bricks needed, and gives to the builder
  - Builder: Puts the bricks together based on input from the Engineer
6. The team now undertakes the build, with the following guidelines:
  - Emphasis is on both verbal and non-verbal communication
  - Everyone's attention should be aligned
  - Any problems require input from the whole group
  - Sharing is encouraged
  - Switching roles mid-project is fine and helps foster flexibility and adaptability
7. When conflicts arise, adults should instruct participants on social conventions that might help them reach resolution. They can redirect the children involved toward using calm language, negotiation, and compromise to resolve the issue. In fact, guidance on social conventions and thinking modes for staying on the right side of them is encouraged throughout the process. They should never receive help in building, however.