Connecting People® are a colorful collection of freestanding, plastic miniature adults and children with hands that can be linked. A set consists of 96 people, and is made up of four identical sets of 24 figures. The attributes of each set are color (red, green, blue and yellow), gender (male or female), and height (approximately $1\frac{4}{7}$, $1\frac{5}{8}$ and $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches). All possible combinations are represented in the set.

Connecting People® are ideal for sorting, counting, naming, sequencing, grouping, patterning, graphing, measuring, and developing logical reasoning.

The suggested activities in this teaching guide support the NCTM Standards (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics).

**FREE EXPLORATION**

Provide students opportunities for exploration with Connecting People®. Then, have students discuss what they did and what they noticed. Record these observations and add to them as students continue to explore.

**MEASURING**

Give each group of students a set of 96 pieces. Pose the following problems:

Estimate how many small people holding hands will fit across your desk the short way. Try it. Does it make a difference if you use bigger people? Why?
Find something that is as long as 5 small people holding hands. Find something that is as long as 10 small people holding hands.

**WHAT’S MISSING?**

Give a group a complete attribute set of 24 *Connecting People®*. Have one student remove a piece while the others close their eyes. Then direct students to open their eyes and find the missing piece. After the piece is identified, have students discuss their strategies.

**RIDDLES**

Prepare each riddle as a set of four clues that determines a person or a set of people. Place each riddle on a separate card. For example:

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I am just one person.
I am the color of an apple.
    I am not red.
I am not the color of the sun.
I have a taller friend and a shorter friend.
    Who am I?
```

Give each group of four students a complete set of 96 *Connecting People®* and each student one clue that only he or she can see. Have students take turns reading their clues aloud. Each student selects one piece or set of people that satisfies all four clues. Finally, have students compare solutions. Students should notice whether all of the solutions are the same. Encourage students to try to find four different solutions or explain why this cannot be done.

**Look for these other fine products available from Learning Resources®:**

- LER 7550 *Overhead Connecting People®,* Set of 48
- LER 7551 *Math with Connection People®* Book
- LER 7554 *Inchworms™*, Set of 72

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