Lean Activity K-5: Identifying Waste

Identifying waste is the first thing that Industrial Engineers do when we look for things to improve on. Waste is everywhere and it is easy to find when you know what to look for! By identifying waste, we identify the problem and then come up with a solution to fix the problem. That is what Lean is all about!!

Let's review the different forms of Waste with Tim Wood!

Tim Wood was a wood carver and had a shop in the forest where he cut trees down and used the wood to make pretty things to sell. He loved his job but noticed a lot of waste in his work. Here is what he found.

1. Transportation - Tim drives back and forth to his shop 5 times a day to make deliveries.
2. Inventory - Tim loves carving wood and makes soooo many carvings that he has to pile them up in every corner of his shop!
3. Motion - Tim runs around all day and never sits still because all of his tools are in different places.
4. Waiting - Tim plants new trees at the same time so he has to wait years until they are ready to be cut down.
5. Overproduction - Tim only sells 10 carvings a day but he makes 20 just for fun.
6. Over Processing - Every time someone asks him to make a specific carving, he has them fill out 5 different forms instead of one.
7. Downtime - Tim has a machine he used to polish his tools, but the machine tends to break down often slowing down his work.

<u>Activity</u>: Scavenger Hunt Identifying Waste in your Home!
Let's see how many wastes around your house that you can identify.

How to Play:

1. Set your timer for 10 minutes.
2. Go around your house and look for any of the following wastes in the list below.
3. If you find one, then check the box to the left of the waste in the list.
4. Try to check off all of the items in the list before time is up!
5. You can play by yourself or get your family members to join in and see who completes the scavenger hunt first!

Identifying Waste Around the House Scavenger Hunt!

	Dirty Dishes piled up in the sink.
	Clothes on the floor.
	Toys, Books or Games on the floor.
	Garbage that has not been taken out.
	Laundry that has not been put away.
	Waiting for the washing machine/dryer to be done.
	Waiting for the stove/oven to heat up.
	Waiting for the computer to turn on.
	A machine or appliance is broken.
	A light bulb is out and needs to be replaced.
	Leaves or weeds in your yard.

What we Learned:

Waste is EVERYWHERE! But once we learn to see it, the faster we are able to do something in order to eliminate it or lean out the process!