

Back to Basics

Jim Cain, Ph.D.

Teamwork & Teamplay

In tough economic times, we are reminded of the basic things that make us successful in what we do. Here are dozens of great programming ideas for games and activities that you can use at your camp. Some may be familiar, some are brand new, but all fit into the category of core activities that you can use to produce outstanding results without spending much money. From teambuilding, to character education, to leadership and fun, these activities return much for their minimal investment.

Activity	Source	Comments
The Story Stretch	AZ YMCA	Explore leadership and teamwork by warming up
Knots	New Games	Also in Teamwork & Teamplay
The Change Train	Book – ESTA	Essential Staff Training Activities
The Dumb Dice Game	Table Games	Find Something To Do – A new book by Jim Cain
The Name Motion Game	Name Games	Every counselor should know a few name games
Discussing Character	Character Cards	The Match Game, with words of character
The Virtual Slideshow	Reviewing Tricks	Book - A Teachable Moment
Block Stacking	NC YMCA	Simple Fun
Peteca	Brazilian Game	Teamwork & Teamplay (book, and website)
Raccoon Circle Activities	RC book	Also available to download (see below)
Bull Ring Candelabra	Book – ESTA	Bringing multiple teams together
Autographs	T&T book	A new version with a positive twist!
Singing Together	CA YMCA	The Pizza Man song
No Prop Activities	Jim’s new book	Find Something To Do!

Suggested Reading

Classic books, such as: New Games, More New Games, Playfair, Teamwork & Teamplay, Silver Bullets (new edition available now from Kendall Hunt publishers 1-800-228-0810), Phonology by E.O.Harbin, The Cooperative Games Book. You can also ‘google’ keywords related to games, play, songs and teambuilding activities. For creative debriefing and reviewing techniques, visit Roger Greenaway’s site at: www.reviewing.co.uk

Download the following useful documents from the Teamwork & Teamplay website:

The Raccoon Circle document – dozens of ideas for using this unique and wonderfully simple prop.
The Featherball document – learn about the cultural history and rules for the Peteca (funderbird).

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Autographs

First, write your first name in the block to the right. Then find another person who **has done** (sign the top portion of the block) or **has not done** (sign the bottom portion of the block) any of the activities listed below. You can sign up to two blocks on anyone's autograph page.

Hello, my name is:

Your first name here, in great big letters.

I have done this signature

Example: Has gone water skiing

I have not done this signature

Knows someone famous

Has an unusual hobby

Knows how to program their VCR or DVD player

Has been to Mount Rushmore

Has ridden a camel or unicycle

Plays a musical instrument

Has many siblings

Collects something interesting

Can speak a Foreign Language

Had an unusual job

Looks the most like you

Has been on TV

Likes their dentist

Has performed on stage

Has been to summer camp

Would bungee jump if the chance occurred

Has not flown on an airplane