

# *Essential Staff Training Activities*

**Jim Cain, Ph.D.**

## **Teamwork & Teamplay**

If you would like to make your staff training program more active, effective, engaging, memorable and fun, here are some essential activities, ideas, suggestions and techniques to do just that. In this workshop, you'll learn how to utilize activities to reinforce essential staff training topics, from leadership and decision making to teamwork and creative problem solving. You'll find all of these activities and ideas in the book, *Essential Staff Training Activities* – available at the ACA bookstore.

Activities	Comments
The Story of Your Name Over Here!	An essential activity for building respect Learn how to build an atmosphere of inclusion at your camp
The Blind Trust Drive	According to S.M.R.Covey, trust is the one thing that effects everything!
Wrapped Around My Finger	One of the easiest Raccoon Circle activities, perfect for staff training
The Change Train	Adapting to change and coaching & mentoring themes here
Wah!	Games just for fun, energizing techniques
Magic Carpet	Goal setting and teamwork in one activity with a great teachable moment
Character Cards	Discussion about character, ethics, responsibility, trust and more.
The Big Question	A very simple icebreaker
Not Knots	Building consensus with your staff
Inside Out	Creative problem solving with groups
Interference	Communication and more
Texas Leghorn	A very quick energizer
Hieroglyphics	(see the back of this sheet)
A Circle of Kindness	A super closing activity
Grand Prix Racing	A very easy energizer

### **The Five Finger Rule - An Example of Educational Hooks**

Thumb – Be positive

Pointer – Don't point fingers or blame others. Be responsible for you.

Middle – Respect

Ring – Commitment to the team, the situation, the game

Pinky – Safety – look out for the little guy.

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468 Salmon Creek Road  
Brockport, NY 14420

Phone (585) 637-0328

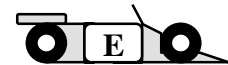
Email: [jimcain@teamworkandteamplay.com](mailto:jimcain@teamworkandteamplay.com)

Website: [www.teamworkandteamplay.com](http://www.teamworkandteamplay.com)



## Modern Hieroglyphics

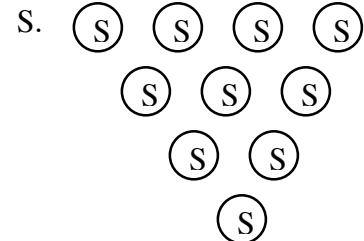
Words that say one thing, and mean another



Decode each of the cryptic messages below and write the true message below each clue.  
For example, message L below decodes as “a little bit more.”

A. UR

J. \_\_\_\_\_ it



B. Traveling  
CCCCC

K. TIMING TIM ING

C. 2 UM + 2 UM

L. bit MORE

T. SOM

D. IDSK

M. VAD ERS

U. CY CY

E. HIJKLMNO



V. Going  
May 6 July 9

F. YOU/JUST/ME

O. BJAOCKX

W. BAN ANA

G. LAL

P. • THAT'S

X. ME QUIT

H. Often, Often, Often,  
Not, Not

Q. nafish nafish

Y. SIGHT LOVE  
SIGHT  
SIGHT

I. T I M E  
abdefgh

R.

Z. Wheather