



Tom Heck
Teamwork Coach

Hello! I'm Tom Heck and I'm passionate about creating sustainable win-win team consciousness worldwide. I believe the fastest, easiest way to creating this level of consciousness is through experiential learning exercises like this one you've downloaded.

If you find this resource helpful, you can buy one of my multimedia training CDs.

Each CD is filled with over 30 teambuilding games designed to teach the skills of leadership, cooperation, trust, creativity, communication, and confidence.



The CDs contains video clips, color photos, detailed printable directions, easy and quick navigation, and special bonus material. They are used by people around the world.

Is **TRUST** an issue on your team? I've found the most potent teachings about trust to be experienced through an activity called "Mousetrap Trust." It's a powerful game that helps create an opening for you to discuss how to build trust between people. Find it on CD # 1

Does your team struggle with **COLLABORATION**? I love teaching the principles of collaboration through the game I call "Four Corner Traverse". There is only one way for a team to achieve success in this game and that's by collaborating. Find it on CD # 2

Are you in need of new and engaging ways to **DEBRIEF** an activity? I recommend the "Metaphor Cards" activity to help people open up to new ways of thinking about and learning from the teambuilding games you lead. Find it on CD # 3



If you find this resource you've downloaded valuable, look for the TeachMeTeamwork **TIP JAR** at the end of this document. There you'll find instructions on how to easily contribute \$2, \$5, \$10 or whatever amount you feel moved to give. Your contribution will go directly towards the maintenance and continued expansion of teambuilding resources such as this one.

Tom Heck

Back Writing

Teambuilding Game

Group Size: 10 – 100
Age Range: elementary – adult
Intensity: Mental=2, Physical=1
Time: 5 – 10 minutes (without debrief)
Space: Minimal – Medium -- Lots
Set Up Time: 60 seconds
Props: Markers and paper

Objective

Successfully communicate
("transmit") a written message
through your team.



Set Up / Preparation

1. Create small groups of 4 or 5 people each. Have each small group sit in chairs (or on the floor) in a line, one person behind the other. Provide the person at the front of each line with an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and a marker.
2. Give the big group the following directions: *"In a moment, I'm going to ask the person at the back of each small group to come to the front of the room where they will watch me draw a picture on a big piece of paper. Only this small group of people will be allowed to view the picture. Once they see the picture they will return to their seats where they will then use their finger to draw the same picture on the back of the person sitting in front of them – who will then draw the picture on the person's back in front of them – who will then draw the picture on the back of the person in front of them – and so on. The person at the front of the line will*

then draw the picture on the piece of paper using the marker. Once each team is done, we will compare final drawings with the original drawing.”

3. Keep the first picture simple – like a smiley face. After the first round, have people rotate positions in their small groups so everyone can get a chance at being the first person. See “Variations” below for suggestions on other (more difficult) pictures to draw.

Rules

1. People have only one chance to draw the picture on the back of someone else.
2. Verbal communication is not allowed.

Comments

1. This activity reminds some of the children’s game called “telegraph” where a group of 10 or 15 people sit in a circle and the leader whispers a short story into the ear of the person sitting next to them who then whispers the story into the persons ear sitting next to them, and so on. By the time the story gets all the way around the circle, the story usually sounds nothing like the original story.
2. This activity requires people to communicate through touch. It’s a stretch for most people to use this sense in this way (and stretching is good).

Debriefing Suggestions

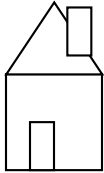
1. I like to have groups participate in this activity and then discuss (in their small groups) what they’ve found to be true about communication as demonstrated through this activity. Groups will often discuss issues such as the importance of clarity and how messages delivered with great care can get turned upside-down in short order.

2. Occasionally there will be a person or two who attempt to “cheat” by looking at their neighbors to see how they are doing. I don’t concern myself with this behavior because what often happens is they end up getting erroneous information (i.e. their neighbor is doing it wrong). This provides for an interesting debrief topic.

Variations

I use the following pictures in this order (each is harder than it’s predecessor):

B+



As the pictures get more advanced, consider allowing the drawers to make multiple attempts at drawing on the back of someone. This will likely increase the chance of success.

History

I first learned this activity from Jim Cain who authored the book “Teamwork & Teamplay”.

A Thought For You

“A true friend is someone who says nice things behind your back.”
-- anonymous



Click Here to Contribute to the TeachMeTeamwork TIP JAR

<http://tinyurl.com/ottn2>

Your contribution will go directly towards the maintenance and continued expansion of teambuilding resources such as this one.

Making a contribution for the use of these materials helps “prime the pump” to keep things working...

A man was crossing a desert in the days of the pioneers. He ran into trouble and was dying of thirst when he spotted a pump near an abandoned shack.

He had no water to prime the pump, but he noticed a jug of water near the pump with a note attached. It read:

"There is just enough water in this jug to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour the water in the top of the pump and pump the handle quickly. After you have had a drink, refill this jug for the next person who comes along."



Will there be times when people choose not to contribute? Certainly. However, 82% on average do give back, leaving water in the bucket so the system continues to work.



You decide what feels right for you. If you download activities for free and choose not to contribute to my TIP JAR, then perhaps you'll buy one of my CDs. I trust you'll make the perfect choice.

The most important thing is for you to teach team skills and promote win-win consciousness. Let me know how I can assist you in doing your good work.

Tom Heck