

THE NUMBER GAME

The Number Game is a very old exercise that was originally for individual use only, but has been adapted to a very good team exercise that provides numerous processing points.

The exercise takes approximately forty five minutes.

Pass out three sheets to each individual.

Give the following instructions. “We are going to do an exercise that will challenge you to concentrate on productivity. Place your pen or pencil on the number 1 and when I say GO, draw a line to 2, then to 3, and so on. The objective is to get to 60 in one minute. You will get three times to do this.” Say GO and when 60 seconds has passed, STOP. Ask how high they were able to get. They will generally get in the 20 to 30 area. Do the exercise a total of three times individually. They will then realize that they cannot get to 60 by themselves. Then assign them to work in groups of five. Tell them they now have to work as a team and only one person can draw, but they have to figure out how to use the talents and energy of each team member. All must be involved. Ask them to practice Style Flexibility. Give them a few minutes for planning and then give them a trial. After four or five tries, one group will probably get to 60. After the first team try, ask them to share with each other information they have found. If one group gets through before others, ask them to continue to better their time as the other groups are attempting to get to 60. The best record to date is less than 30, being held by International Paper Wood Product Division in Camden, Texas.

If a group just cannot get it, let the time go for an extra ten seconds or so, but do not let them know that. You want all groups to have a WIN.

After completion, there are several points that can be made, but ask for this information from the groups. Typical answers are:

Teams can accomplish more than individuals.

We should use people in areas where their skill is best.

We have to learn to play different roles.

Planning and communication are very important

When we focus on our work, we forget our styles.

A clear goal helps the group.

Team goals come before individual goals.

THE NUMBER GAME

1 53 16 54
27 39 15 28 40 6
13 51 5 41 2 26 52
29 17 14 50 30
37 49 25 38 18 4 42
7 23 55 46 36
35 43 31 22 44 12 34
47 11 19 57 8 32 24 58
33 45 20 60 56
21 59 48 10
9

THE NUMBER GAME

	Odd				Even			
Six in Sequence	1	53	39	15	28	16	54	
		27			40		6	
	13		51	5	2	26	52	
		29	17		14			
				3	38	50	30	
	37	49		25	18	4	42	
Six in Sequence		23		55	46	36		
	7		43	31	22	44	12	34
		35			8	32	24	
			19	57	20			58
	47	11				60	56	
			33	45		48		
		21		59			10	
		9						