



20 Creative Ideas to Make Meetings Fun!

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When using these ideas, make sure they are age appropriate for the group.

- 1) Have a theme to go along with the meeting. For example, have a Hawaiian theme and at the door, put a lei (flower necklaces) around each participant's neck. Leis can be found at many party stores.



- 2) Hide a few items throughout the room and at certain times have everyone (in their seats) look for the items (you can make the items go with topic and will act as a transition).
- 3) Have funny, little paper awards to hand out at the end of the meeting to each participant, but make sure each person gets one. Examples: Funniest Laugh, Helped Others, First to Raise Hand, etc.



- 4) During different points of the meetings, have participants share something good that happened to them that week or something they are looking forward to.
- 5) Pick a "Hot Potato" word and every time you say that word, each participant has to get up and find someone new to sit next to. Try to make it an obvious word that is off topic, but can be thrown in three or four times.



- 6) Have some play money (use monopoly money or create your own) and at the beginning of the meeting, place \$5 on each seat. After breaks, place \$1 on each seat and during the meeting pass money out for those that answer questions. At the end of the meeting have an auction where participants can buy items (pencils, erasers, candy bars, etc.).
- 7) Bring in an assortment of candy bars, one for each participant. After everyone has selected a candy bar, ask them how their job/school, the topic of training, and his/her group is similar to the candy bar. A variation would be to give everyone the same candy bar and give their answers, but they cannot repeat.

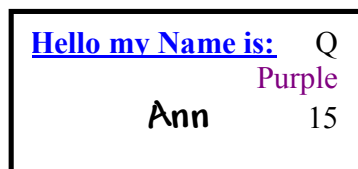




- 8) Direct all participants to stand up and stretch. Then, say with a smile, “To earn your chair back, you need to tell your table group (or row) the most important thing you have learned so far and how you plan to use this information after the training. When your whole group is seated again, we will continue.”
- 9) As a review ask a question and choose one to answer it. Once he/she answers it, toss a soft ball to him/her and have that person ask the next question. Repeat until everyone gets a chance to ask a question.



- 10) Have a crossword puzzle with questions on the bottom that you will be going over during the session. Pass them out at the beginning, then during the meeting, when questions are answered, participants can fill in the spaces and keep it as a review. Have an answer sheet out at the end so participants can double check answers.
- 11) Make name tags for each participant, but give them a color, number, and letter. Then when groups are needed to be made, the leader can call out a color, number, or letter and participants can group with those that have the same color, number, or letter.



- 12) When having a discussion, ask a few questions and give a few minutes for participants to write their thoughts down. By doing this, participants have time to think and will make it easier for them to share with the rest of the group.
- 13) At the beginning of the meeting, lead a five minute stretch. This will get blood running through them like an adrenaline boost and wake them up. If the meeting is on the longer side, have another stretch about halfway through. Stretches can include:



- Touching toes
- Reach for sky
- Lunges
- Arm stretches

14) Before the meeting is started, as a group, have participants tell goals they hope to get accomplished from the meeting. Write them down on a piece of flip chart paper. At the end, go over them and see if there were any unanswered. If some were unanswered, try and discuss them

15)



Have a slice of play dough in a plastic baggy at each seat. Instruct participants to create a small figurine during the meeting (helps with fidgeting). At the end, have participants explain what they made and how it relates to them.

16) Have little, healthy snacks to pass out during the break. It will help re-energize participants. Snacks could be mini waters and granola bars. This is especially good for longer meetings.

17) Start off with a brain teaser to get participants' minds going (see following page for some examples). After a few minutes, give the answer so they are not distracted through the meeting by trying to figure the answer to the brainteaser.



18) When greeting participants at the door, pass out affirmations or quotes that will make the participants smile or laugh. It will make for conversation by everyone sharing.

19) Pass out postcards to each participant and have them write their address on it. Then have them write down their top five things they want to accomplish this school year. Then six months later, mail the postcard to them.

20)



Give each participant a name tag with a number on it. During the meeting, call out a number. The participants with the corresponding number stand up and take turns saying what about the meeting they are enjoying so far.