

Energize Yourself & Others Through Play

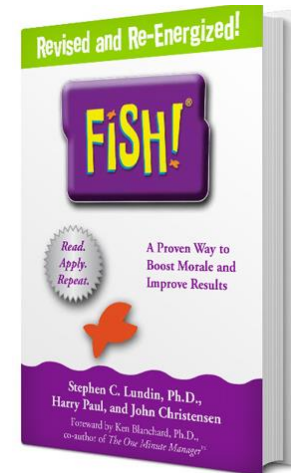
The financial services industry is fast-paced, demanding, unpredictable, challenging, and riddled with compliance and regulation – in other words, it does not readily provide a lot of opportunity for FUN. Play is an essential part of keeping people balanced, light-hearted, inspired, and energized.

Here are a few things you can consider adding to your Leadership Model to inspire Play.

Go FISHing!

Have your team read the book FISH! This book covers four principles which create and maintain a positive, inspiring, fun, and energized team environment.

This easy one-hour read can be assigned to the team ahead of the Annual Strategic Planning Session. Everyone can come prepared with ideas on how to apply these four principles to the work environment.



Have FUN Contests

There are many opportunities to have fun contests throughout the year which may be based on sports, current events, team achievements & goals, or even personal activities of team members! Some teams have annual pools for specific sports the team is interested in, while others have had contests around specific events happening locally or around the world. Some have put together contests around meeting specific team goals (when and where) or the baby's due date of someone on the team who is expecting. You can even use an occasion like Halloween to encourage the team to dress up and/or decorate the office and have a contest for best prize.

Whatever it is, make sure it is light-hearted, involves everyone and has a quirky or fun prize that comes with bragging rights.

It's a 'Secret'

Some teams draw names to engage in the well-known "Secret Santa" over the month of December which can be fun. Of course, the best part is trying to figure out who your "Secret Santa" is. Other teams draw names each year to determine who is responsible for 'making the day' of someone on their birthday that year. This means each team member is responsible for organizing the birthday card, gift, lunch and/or decorating the workspace of the individual celebrating the birthday. Again, it's fun to determine who it was.

Be Creative

You know your team better than anyone, so be creative and introduce the element of PLAY into the work environment in a way you feel will be meaningful and fun.