**Initiative Games**

WHAT ARE INITIATIVE GAMES?

Initiative games are fun, cooperative, challenging games in which the group is confronted with a specific problem to solve. Begin by clearly explaining the game. Make sure the rules are understood, including that everyone must complete the activity for the group to be successful. Don’t offer ideas for solving the problem. Stand back and let the group work and play with it even if the group has a difficult time. Don’t interfere unless something is unsafe or the group has fallen apart.

**Activity #1: LINE UP**

Materials: blindfolds

Blindfold everyone in the group. Whisper to each person a number from one to the number of persons in the group. After you are done, tell the players they must line up by consecutive numbers without talking. Everyone should begin to move slowly around each other, putting palms up facing outward to protect themselves from collisions.

**Activity #2: KNOTS**

A group of six to 12 people forms a circle. Each person puts the right hand into the center of the circle and clasps hands with one other person who is not standing next to him or her. Then everyone puts their left hand into the circle and clasps hands, again making sure that person is not standing next to them. They should be holding two different people’s hands. The goal is to untangle the knot without letting go of anyone’s hand.

**Activity #3: THE GREAT EGG DROP**

The goal is to build a structure that will prevent an egg from breaking when it is dropped from a height of 8 feet. The only materials allowed are 20 straws and 30 inches of ½ -inch masking tape. Try to do it with as few materials as possible.

— From the Bottomless Bag