

OUTDOOR LEARNING CARDS



TEAMBUILDING TB12

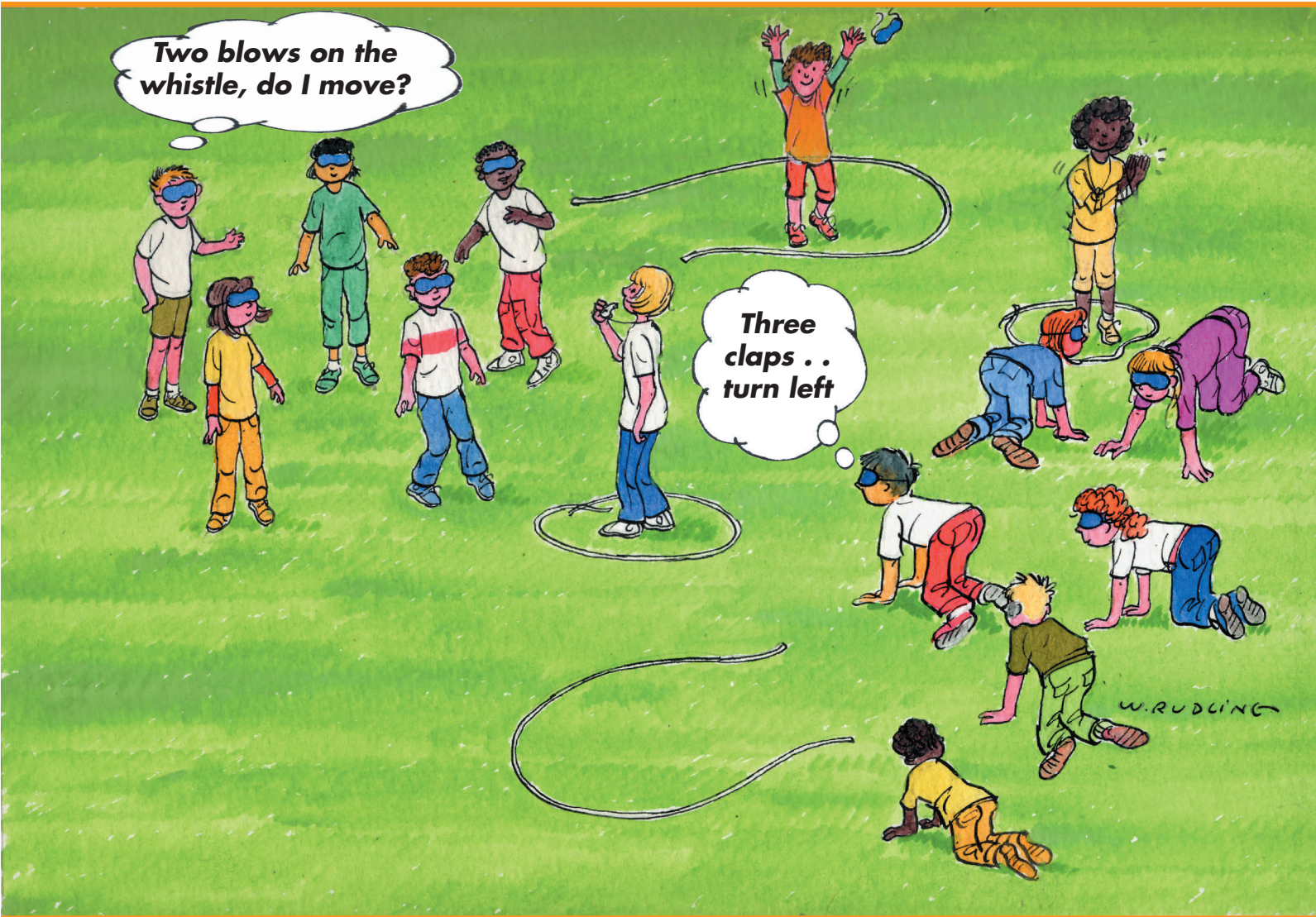
'SHEEP AND SHEPHERD'

Activity

Aim: To guide all the human 'sheep' to 'safety' in the pen.
Description: One member of the group acts as the shepherd, all other team members are blindfolded as 'sheep' who are out 'grazing in the field'. The sheep must be guided by the shepherd into the sheep pen, using non-verbal communication.

Review and Evaluation

- How effective was the communication system?
- If it was successful, why was this so?
- Could it have been improved upon, and if so how?
- How did the sheep feel when they were blindfolded?



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Safety Points

- Ensure the area is level and clear of trip hazards.
- If requiring the sheep to 'crawl' make sure the ground is clear of any sharp objects.
- Supervising leader to spot for 'stray' sheep!! Ensure they do not wander too far away from the working area.

Organisation/Resources

This exercise is particularly good for including a peer observer to assess the team working, they can also watch over the 'sheep'.

Equipment

- Eyeshades.
- Rope or similar to mark out a pen.

Organisation

- Groups of 6-8 sheep work well.
- During the exercise no one is allowed to talk – penalties can be agreed for those that do.
- The shepherd can clap, whistle or use other non-verbal communication, to help guide the 'sheep' into the pen.
- The shepherd must stay in one place, away from the pen, throughout the round up and is not allowed to touch or physically guide any sheep.
- Teams must spend time planning before they can start. It will be important to agree some non-verbal communication. If necessary, give a hint as to some non-verbal communication techniques.
- Sheep can only enter the 'pen' through the 'gate'.

Differentiation & Progression

- Sheep can talk.
- Shepherd can talk.
- Use a time limit, make this shorter or longer.
- Allow a number of attempts.
- Have a clear area with a pen or add some 'soft' obstacles as well.

Skills & Knowledge

This exercise brings out many skills, only a few are outlined below. Agree to focus on just a few, the peer observer(s) can then concentrate on these.

- Plan a way forward.
- Explore the problem from different perspectives; consider not only how to communicate but how to differentiate communication.
- Generate ideas.
- Test alternative communication methods.
- Use reasoned argument to express ideas.
- Propose practical ways forward in coming to a solution.
- Understand the value of different roles within a team.
- Demonstrate a willingness to trust others and accept support.
- Evaluate experience and apply lessons learned.
- Talk openly about successes and setbacks.

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