

Creating a **FUN** WORKPLACE



Life is short. There is absolutely no reason why we can't have fun while at work. What follows are some suggestions you may want to use at your company.

1. **Create a fun committee.** Put some of the “funnest” people at your organization in charge. Give them a budget—maybe \$10 per employee per week and see what they can do.
2. **Have a community service day.** Giving back to our community is fun and rewarding. Whether you coordinate an event for the Boys and Girls Club, a homeless shelter, senior citizen home, a group cleanup project, etc. Giving back on a group basis is even more fun.
3. **Red noses day.** Whether you wear red noses, Groucho glasses, or silly hats, it's fun to have a day like that. You simply can't take each other seriously when you do. (I can hear the chorus now, “But I want to be taken seriously.”)
4. **Kids' pictures.** Encourage your employees to have their children draw pictures that they can hang up in a hallway. Pick a theme. One company specifically created slot-like frames you can slide in an 8.5” x 11” piece of paper which made it very easy to change out pictures. You cannot stay in a funk very long walking past a bunch of pictures drawn by kids.
5. **Bring in a magician.** Let them walk around and do some magic tricks for your employees. Yes, they may be distracted for all of five minutes, but they'll have fun doing it; which is exactly the point!
6. **Theme days.** Whether it's country western, 60s, 70s, or otherwise, it's fun to not only dress up employees, but the environment as well. This goes great for St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day, and of course, Halloween.
7. **Require people provide a joke along with their résumé.** When one CEO told us about this, we thought it was a brilliant idea. He said reading résumés is one of the most boring things you can do. Requiring a joke certainly makes it more fun; secondly, if people can't follow instruction he won't hire them; and third, you get an idea of what type of sense of humor they may have.
8. **Cartoon caption contest.** Get a cartoon, blank out the caption, and then have a contest for your employees to fill it.
9. **Have food events.** Eating with your colleagues can be fun. Many companies will have food events around a holiday theme. Encourage people to bring a dish native to their heritage. We've tasted some of the best...and most unusual...food at these events.
10. **Have a murder mystery.** A body was just found by the water cooler. Who did it? You can easily hire actors who perform these skits to come into your company and spend an hour or two some afternoon.
11. **Have a sundae party.** Bring in a boatload of ice cream, nuts, and cherries and engage in some sugar overload at the end of the day. What could be more fun than that?
12. **Funny Story Day.** Have folks share a humorous workplace story either at your company or a previous employer. Issue some basic guidelines such as no obscenities and no ridiculing any current employees lest they be offended. Keep a time limit of say no more than five minutes.
13. **Get out and do something physical together.** Whether it's a ropes course, bowling, or miniature golf, it's fun to engage in physical activity. Many companies will have softball, soccer, basketball teams, and the like as well.

There are dozens of ways to have fun; limited only by the imagination!

