Name Crossword

Impact:	Encourages people to meet and learn about others in the group
Risk:	Low
Group Size:	Unlimited
Time Required:	15 to 30 minutes, depending on group size
Materials:	A pencil and index card or stiff piece of paper for each person

Directions:

- Everyone is given a pencil and an index card. Each player prints his or her name across the center of the index card or paper and then mingles with other group members. When two people meet, each adds the other's name to his or her paper as if creating a crossword puzzle. After exchanging names, the pairs should discuss something that they have in common and record it on the back of the paper. Then each participant repeats the process with new partners.

- After people have collected eight or 10 names, everyone forms a circle and shares some of the things they had in common.

Hint: Suggest that pairs look for more interesting things that they have in common than the fact that they are both alive, both human, both female, etc. This is a low-risk activity, but it can also be done with participants who know one another—just encourage them to find deeper things in common.

Discussion:

- What did you learn about someone else that you did not expect?
- What similarities did you notice among the members of the group?
- How well did you listen to your partners during discussions about things you have in common?

Name Gesture

Impact:	Encourages sharing about oneself through body language; teaches names and introduces people to the personalities of group members
Risk:	Medium
Group Size:	Unlimited
Time Required:	10 minutes, depending on the size of the group
Materials:	None

Directions:

Everyone stands in a circle. The first person says his or her name and makes an accompanying gesture that expresses something about themselves. For example, someone who is having a good day might take a bow, clap twice, and turn around. The rest of the circle repeats the name, voice-tone, and gesture three times. Continue until everyone has had a turn.