

# Get a Kick Out of Teamwork

Cross-curriculum activities to meet your teaching goals

Dear Educator,

Millions of children and their parents participate in youth-league soccer, offering them a chance to be with friends, get some exercise, and learn how to cooperate as part of a team. Because one of the best ways to reach students is by relating core curriculum to their own interests, Universal Studios Home Entertainment and the award-winning curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) are pleased to bring you this classroom program based on the soccer-related film *Kicking & Screaming*, starring comedy favorite Will Ferrell. The film will be released on DVD on October 11th.

The three cross-curriculum activities and a poster that together focus on **mathematics, language arts, social studies, and physical fitness** also give students the opportunity to learn the value of teamwork. These subjects are presented in creative and fun ways that are sure to capture and hold your third- and fourth-graders' interest and enthusiasm. Each activity has a take-home component designed to involve family members.

You and your students do not need to view *Kicking & Screaming* in order to use these activities, although doing so will add to students' fun and enjoyment. Feel free to make as many photocopies of these copyrighted materials as you need in order to share with colleagues, including the gym and/or media teacher. As a former teacher, I am sure these materials will help students achieve their goals—whether on the soccer field or in the classroom.

Sincerely,



Joel Ehrlich  
President and former teacher



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# Soccer All-Stars

**Curriculum Focus:** language arts, social studies

## Who Should Use This Program?

This cross-curriculum program has been designed for third- and fourth-grade students. Please share it with other teachers as appropriate.

## Program Components

- This teacher's guide
- Three student reproducibles on social studies, language arts and physical fitness, each with take-home components
- A colorful, interactive wall poster focusing on mathematics
- A reply card for your important feedback

## Program Objectives

- To use popular film characters to help instill lessons about the values of teamwork
- To capitalize on students' natural interest in sports and sports heroes to reinforce the value of physical fitness
- To improve student skills in language arts, mathematics, social studies and geography through activities to which students can easily relate

## How To Use The Teacher's Guide and Wall Poster

Review the materials and schedule them into your lesson plans. Photocopy each activity master for students. Display the wall poster in a prominent place in your classroom. Instructions and answers to the poster activity are provided on the next page. Tailor the activities to your students' interests and abilities.

## Film Synopsis

In the beginning of *Kicking & Screaming*, the audience learns that Phil Weston (Will Ferrell) was never very good at soccer. His overbearing, hyper-competitive father Buck (Robert Duvall)—who coached Phil when he was a kid—believed that winning at any cost was the most important thing, even if it meant that Phil often stayed on the bench. Now that Phil has a son (Sam) who plays soccer, he decides to coach Sam's team. But caught up in competition against Buck, who coaches the opposition, Phil quickly becomes just as bad as his dad, benching Sam and preaching winning over everything. As the kids in the film learn about soccer, Phil must learn that teamwork, sportsmanship, and the participation of every team member are far more valuable than simply winning.



**"Kick the ball, not each other!"**

Begin by sharing the synopsis of *Kicking & Screaming* with students. Ask students what they know about sports and famous athletes, including soccer and soccer players. Discuss the fact that soccer is the world's most-played sport, enjoyed by children and adults in over 200 countries. One reason for its popularity is that soccer is relatively easy to play on a basic level. Young children needn't have special skills such as hitting a baseball or shooting a basketball in order to participate. Soccer also helps promote teamwork, since single players, by themselves, rarely succeed in a game built around passing the ball and cooperating with teammates. How many students have played on a soccer team? Ask them to share their experiences.

For **Part A**, have students work in teams, using library and online research tools to help them find the information they need. For **Part B**, the answers are: (1978) Argentina, (1982) Spain, (1986) Mexico, (1990) Italy, (1994) United States, (1998) France, (2002) Japan, and (2006) Germany.

For the take-home component, have students ask their parents which athletes they respected or followed when they were children. Then have students research and write about one of those athletes. How did they compare with the sports stars the students researched in **Part A**? What, if any, qualities do their parents' heroes have in common with successful sports stars today?

## Extended Activity

Have students research the climate and geography of the eight countries listed in **Part B**. How do they compare? Are these factors part of soccer's popularity in these countries? If not, what do students think contributes to the sport's acceptance around the globe?

## National Education Standards: Grades 3-4

<b>Activity 1</b> <b>Soccer All-Stars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather information from basic sources and present a short report in student's own words. (<i>Language Arts</i>)</li> <li>• Understanding maps; identifying continents and countries. (<i>Social Studies</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 2</b> <b>Get in the Game</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate regularly in physical activity; value physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle. (<i>Physical Education</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 3</b> <b>And Then What Happens?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make reasonable judgments about what to include in student's own written works. (<i>Language Arts</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Poster</b> <b>Get on the Ball!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solving word problems; calculating area and circumference of a circle; calculating area and perimeter of a rectangle. (<i>Mathematics</i>)</li> </ul>

# Get in the Game

## Activity 2

**Curriculum Focus:** physical education

Childhood obesity is an issue of growing concern to parents and educators alike. As research continues to support the connection between overweight and inactive children and diseases like diabetes, the need for students to exercise, and to get and stay in shape becomes increasingly vital. One important message in *Kicking & Screaming* is that playing sports with other kids is fun and rewarding, with exercise as a fringe benefit. This activity is designed to raise student awareness of their levels of physical activity, and to stress the importance of physical fitness in staying healthy.



“Now, who do we *always* pass it to?”

**Part A.** Before reviewing the **Top 10 Ways to Stay in Shape** list on the activity sheet, ask students to brainstorm ways that they think they can stay healthy by getting in shape. Then lead a class discussion about each of the tips on the list and ask students whether they do these things on a regular basis.

**Part B.** Over the course of one week, use the chart provided to have students keep track of the number of hours each day they do physical activity, versus the number of hours each day they watch TV or play video games. At the end of the week, lead a class discussion about what students discovered about themselves. Could they do more to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives? How?

For the take-home component, ask students to have their parents sign their chart after discussing ways they can help boost their physical activity levels.

Suggest a one-on-one soccer “match” after dinner or a simple game of catch.

### Extended Activity

Have students use the information on their charts to create a class graph comparing the amount of time they spend doing physical activities versus the amount of time they spend watching TV and playing video games. Set a goal for class improvement and then encourage students to plan out a class strategy as a team.

# And Then What Happens?

## Activity 3

**Curriculum Focus:** language arts

If an adult like Phil Weston in *Kicking & Screaming* can forget the value of teamwork, it's easy to understand how children, caught up in the drive to succeed or to win at a sport or game, can also lose sight of the importance of cooperation and team contributions. Soccer is an excellent sport to promote teamwork, because individual soccer players must play as a team to win, as we see in *Kicking & Screaming*.

This activity gives students the opportunity to work as a team in your classroom. Use the four story starters, presented in the form of images from the film, as starting points for students to write their own story.

Divide your class into four groups of teammates. Assign one of the four images from *Kicking & Screaming* to each group. Have one student in each group begin a story by describing and then writing what they imagine would happen next. That student should pass what he or she wrote to the next student on the team, who will continue the story. Team members should take turns in this way until each student in the group has participated, and the story is completed. Then have each team member draw a picture to illustrate his or her part of the story and tape the pictures together to make a team storyboard. Have teams display their storyboards on a bulletin board for all to enjoy.

For the take-home component, have students share their written stories with their parents. Can they think of a different ending?

### Extended Activity

Lead a class discussion about teamwork and how students' completed stories are the result of team cooperation. Compare the skills needed in this activity—sharing information and ideas, being open to the suggestions of others, everyone taking turns, etc.—to other examples of teamwork in life and in sports. For example, helping their parents with a task that allows the family to spend more time together or doing chores around the house, is part of family teamwork, just as passing the ball in soccer or basketball is part of sports teamwork. Remind students that everyone has some talent or skill that he or she can contribute to a team, regardless of the activity involved.

### Poster

## Get on the Ball!

**Curriculum Focus:** mathematics

Using the scenes from *Kicking & Screaming* as inspiration, guide students to work in groups on the three Math Challenges shown.

**Answers:** **Challenge 1**—The area is 78.5 inches ( $A = \pi \times r^2$ ), or  $78.5 = 3.14 \times 25$ ; the circumference is 31.4 inches ( $C = \pi \times 2r$ ), or  $31.4 = 3.14 \times 10$ . **Challenge 2**—The perimeter is 136 feet ( $P = W + W + D + D$ ), or  $136 = 60 + 60 + 8 + 8$ ; the area is 480 square feet ( $A = W \times D$ ), or  $480 = 60 \times 8$ . **Challenge 3**—The time is 10 seconds ( $T = D \div FPS$ ), or  $10 = 20 \div 2$ .



# Soccer All-Stars

## Activity 1

**Part A.** In the new DVD of the comedy film *Kicking & Screaming*, funny guy Will Ferrell plays Phil Weston. Phil and his son Sam both wish they could be like the great soccer players, but they still have a long way to go—both of them have spent more time on the bench than on the field! What do you know about famous soccer players or other sports stars? With your team, pick one sports star and research his or her life. Then write a brief biography of that player below (use more paper if you need it). Some suggested soccer players include David Beckham, Mia Hamm, Freddy Adu, and all-time great Pelé, who appears in *Kicking & Screaming*.



"This is Mr. Ditka. He's going to eat you for dinner if you don't win!"

**Part B.** Every four years the greatest players in the world play for their home countries in the World Cup tournament to determine the world champion of soccer. Research which countries hosted the seven most recent World Cup tournaments, and find out which country will host the upcoming World Cup in 2006. List the eight countries below.

Then locate and number those countries on the map below.

### World Cup Final Host Country

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| ① 1978 _____ | ⑤ 1994 _____ |
| ② 1982 _____ | ⑥ 1998 _____ |
| ③ 1986 _____ | ⑦ 2002 _____ |
| ④ 1990 _____ | ⑧ 2006 _____ |

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**Part C.** Ask your parents which sports stars or teams they followed when they were growing up. Research and write a short biography of one of their favorite players on the back of this sheet. How is that person alike or different from the sports star you researched?



Make it a goal to see **KICKING & SCREAMING** when it's released on DVD on October 11th



# Get in the Game

**Part A.** One of the great things about playing sports is that it's not only fun, but it also helps you stay in shape. In *Kicking & Screaming*, coach Phil Weston (played by Will Ferrell) always leads his soccer players through a series of exercises before a game to help them do their best on the field. Here are some ways you can stay in shape:



"Can you hear me now?"

## Top 10 Ways to Stay in Shape

1. Ride your bike instead of being driven somewhere or taking a bus or subway.
2. Play catch with a friend or family member.
3. Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
4. Make sure you do some exercise each day, whether it's walking, running, riding your bike, dancing, or playing a team sport.
5. Drink fruit juice instead of soda, and eat fruit for a sweet snack instead of candy.
6. Jump rope or play a game of tag with your friends.
7. Join an organized youth league in your favorite sport, or just get a pick-up game together with your friends.
8. Shoot some hoops on the driveway or on a playground. You only need two people for a game. You also can shoot hoops or kick a soccer ball by yourself to improve your skills, while also getting some exercise.
9. Stretch every day. It's cool to stay "loose and limber," and it helps prevent injuries when you play sports.
10. Drink lots of water so you don't get dehydrated. Drink both before and after you play.

The more exercise you get, the better you'll feel, but even adding one of the above to your routine will make a difference!

**Part B.** Use this chart to keep track of how much exercise you get and how much time you spend watching TV or playing video games for one week. At the end of the week, have your parents sign the chart.

## Activity Chart

For Week of: \_\_\_\_\_

Day	Hours Exercising	Hours Watching TV or Playing Video Games
Monday	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____
Sunday	_____	_____

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

How can you improve your level of activity at home? List three ways below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Make it a goal to see *KICKING & SCREAMING* when it's released on DVD on October 11th



# And Then What Happens?

1



"What?!"

2



"Do they expect *me* to do *that*?"

3



"The pep talk is over..."

4



"Wait just a minute!!"

What happens next in each of these pictures? It's up to you and your classmates. Just as the kids on Phil's team in *Kicking & Screaming* learn that teamwork is the key to winning, you and your classmates will need to work as a team to complete your story. Let one member of the team begin by writing what they think happens next, following the scene above that has been assigned to your team. Then pass your story to a teammate so he or she can continue writing it. Just like in soccer, continue passing until you complete your goal—your own original story!

When your story is finished, draw a picture of the scene you created and tape it together with your teammates' pictures to make your own storyboard. Now that's teamwork in action!

Take a copy of your written story home and share it with your parents. Can they come up with different endings?



Make it a goal to see when it's released on DVD on October 11th



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