



How Play Helps You (and Your Boss) Advance Your Careers

Bosses are often viewed as stern, humorless, serious people. If they see you crack a smile or tell a joke, they are immediately in your face. How dare you have some fun at work!

Of course, not all bosses are this way. Some of them are wonderful people. They understand that allowing a little playfulness on the job creates more loyal employees. Adult play leads to higher productivity and better workplace relationships.

It also makes you look at a playful boss in a more positive light.

Playful Managers and Bosses Get Better Results

Imagine going to work one day and finding out you have a new manager. She believes a new broom sweeps clean, firing a few of your coworkers to make a point. She's stern and appears to have a serious expression, as if she hasn't smiled in years. After introducing herself to you and your coworkers, she hands out your new assignments.

They are doled out robotically. There is no emotion on her face, and your deadlines are demanding. You are told in no uncertain terms that failure is not an option. If you can't get the job done, then she'll find someone who can.

Does that sound like a workplace where you want to be? Of course not! Now, imagine a different scenario.

Introducing Playfulness to the Workplace

The same thing happens, but in a different way. Your new boss has a smile on her face. She's easy-going and casual. She meets you and your coworkers individually and makes an effort to remember your names.

Then there's a group meeting, and you find she's added a playful aspect to your assignments. Employees who complete their work first will receive a half-hour of paid break time. Everyone completing their assignment will also get a half-hour break from the job.

As you move through the stages of your assignment, she pops up time and again with a little playful encouragement. She reminds you that Bill from accounting is nipping at your heels and is about to overtake you. You want to finish first, and this playful suggestion helps you do that.

At the end of your assignments, your new manager surprises you all. She has cake and refreshments in the break room. You are rewarded with an hour of paid free time, which you can spend celebrating with your coworkers or doing whatever you want.

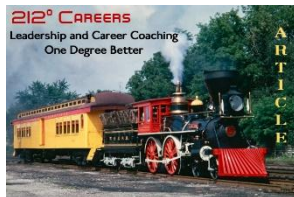
Everyone's Happier with a Little Playfulness on the Job

How much more gets accomplished in that second scenario? You might think that rewarding people with paid free time will kill productivity. It does exactly the

opposite. Everyone loves coming to work, you and your boss included, and productivity goes up.

A simple act of playfulness and a smile yields better results.

There's less stress on the job and in your life. That's the perfect recipe for career advancement for you and your boss. Whether you are the big boss man or an entry-level employee, look for a bit of playtime on the job. It can improve your workday experience, and your company will also benefit.



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