

# CHILLIN' & SKILLIN'

A Collection of Scenes  
for Young People

by

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## SYNOPSIS

*Chillin' & Skillin'* is a collection of nine scenes that convey messages about student behavior, study skills, and success-oriented behaviors for middle and high school students through the use of metaphors drawn from urban and popular culture. The scenes may be presented individually or in groupings, as desired, and there is not prescribed order for presentation.

## PRODUCTION HISTORY

The scenes included in *Chillin' & Skillin'* have been presented in various middle and high school settings in the Atlanta metropolitan area from 2007-2010. The performances were presented free of charge, and the scenes were not professionally reviewed.

## CASTING

The individual scenes in *Chillin' & Skillin'* require from 6 to 16 actors. The same actors can perform in multiple scenes.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

*Chillin' & Skillin'* can be produced with a minimum of technical support, or can be presented with more developed sets, props, and costumes to develop and accentuate the central characters, settings, and metaphors of the scenes.

## LIST OF SCENES

1. The Race (Test-Taking Strategies, through the metaphor of a race)
2. Angels On My Shoulder (Managing Peer Group Influences, through the metaphor of guardian angels)
3. Party On! (The Value of Study Strategies, through the device of a misunderstanding parent)
4. Accessorize! (The Importance of Extracurricular Activities, through the metaphor of a fashion show)
5. In the Tower (Time Management and Prioritizing, through the metaphor of an airport flight control tower)
6. Graduation Idol (The Value of Honors and AP Courses, through the metaphor of a television talent show)
7. Sculpture Gallery (The Importance of Resisting Peer Pressure to Disengage, through the metaphor of a museum tour)
8. The E-Studs (The Value of Study Groups, through the metaphor of a hip-hop band)
9. The Goal Standard (The Importance of Setting Goals, through the metaphor of a film producer accepting movie pitches)
10. E-Cupid (Managing Personal Relationships, through the metaphor of the ancient deity Cupid)

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Scene 1. The Race (Test-Taking Strategies, through the metaphor of a race)

Characters:

Jaylen

Coach Turner

Patrice

Coach Williams

Victor

Coach Purvis

Ms. Compton-Strunk

*(A classroom. Three Kids sit at desks. A Teacher is nearby. In this scene, the Kids see the Teacher and the Coaches, but the Teacher is not aware of the Coaches; they are not real to her.)*

Jaylen: Man, I hate tests!

Patrice: Tell me about it.

Victor: This one is going to be the worst. History!

Ms. Compton-Strunk: All right, class, I'll be handing out the tests in just a minute. Take this time to review and mentally prepare for the test.

Jaylen: Give me a break!

Patrice: Right! Mentally prepare for the test?

Victor: Okay. *(Mockingly)* 1754. Benjamin Franklin. The Spirit of St. Louis. Bla bla bla.

*(Three Coaches come in.)*

Couch Purvis: Victor!

Victor: What?

Coach Purvis: What are you doing?

Victor: Um, I don't know. Like, Ms. Compton-Strunk said to, like, mentally prepare for the test, whatever that means.

Coach Williams: Patrice!

Patrice: Coach Williams!

Coach Williams: Sit up!

Coach Turner: Jaylen!

Jaylen: Coach Turner!?!

Coaches: Out of that chair!

Kids: What???

Coaches: You got to get ready for the race!

Kids: The race???

Coach Purvis: Yeah, the race! She said to get ready.

Coach Williams: So you don't just sit there.

Coach Turner: Look back, think ahead, and get your blood moving.

Coaches: Stretch!

*(The kids start to stretch.)*

Coach Purvis: The stretch is the warm up, the prep, the lead up. On test day, you get enough sleep, you eat healthy food, and you come to the starting line with a positive attitude.

Coach Williams: If you've done your job, then you thought over your last race, which answers you got right, which ones you got wrong, and then you've forgotten about it. This is a whole new day.

Coach Turner: You're relaxed, but full of energy. Ready to go.

Kids: Ready!

Coaches: To the starting line!

*(The Kids get down into starting poses.)*

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[From Scene 8, The E-Studs]

Empathy: I know how you feel. I need people around me, and I love being able to help others. It makes me feel good, like I know what I'm doing in my music. You know, I play bass. I like to lay down the low line to support everyone else, be there for them. But I couldn't do that when I was solo. There's a lot you can't do alone. Working together, we share the load. We can each take on different challenges and problems. We get a lot more done together than any of us could do alone.

Derrick Sly: And who's the leader of the group?

Empathy: Well, we all have our strengths. Evander keeps us organized. Esteban keeps us on schedule. Zeke keeps great notes. Erika keeps it lively. Eddie keeps us talking out loud. And I make sure we all support each other. But really, we just take turns leading our sessions together. If someone's having a down day, someone else will be in charge. And everyone gets a turn. It's more fun that way.

Sherita Z: So you all like being in a group better than being solo?

E-Studs (severally): Oh yeah / definitely / no question!

Derrick Sly: You got such a smooth move going, how about you let me and Miss Sherita Z here become E-Studs too?

Esteban: Sorry, but we find six is just the right size for the group. Never have too many, and if someone can't make it, we still have enough to make our music.

Zeke: Yeah, in fact, . . . hey guys, can we bust it open here on VH6?

E-Studs (severally): Sure. / Why not? / You know it! / Now's the time. / etc.

Zeke: Well, we got a brand new song about being a group -- the E-Stud Group, and we want to put it out there right now.

Derrick Sly: You got it. This show is called is "Back It Up," but the E-Studs are about to "Speed It Ahead."

Zeke: Spread it out and break it down, y'all.

*(The E-Studs get into positions; perhaps they pantomime playing their instruments. Possibly, a beat comes on. Assignment of lines is flexible, at the discretion of the director. This song can be produced and choreographed elaborately, or simply recited, or anything in between.)*

Eddie: No such thing as an E-Stud solo  
You try to sing your thing but it makes you go so slow  
Up against the wall of the stuff you just don't know  
Start it going solo, end up like a bozo

All: Jump into the group groove  
Activate the group move  
Get yourself some new clues  
Spread the Stud-dy group news

Girls: E-Stud group we make some star-studded music  
Guys: One Stud's got a skill, and the other ones can use it  
Girls: Offer me some help, and you know I won't refuse it  
Guys: And if I got my notebook, you know you can peruse it

All: Jump into the group groove  
Activate the group move  
Get yourself some new clues  
Spread the Stud-dy group news

Evander: Text the next meeting on my E-Stud cellphone  
Esteban: Set the group rhythm with the E-Stud metronome  
Erika: Till we burn the disc, ain't no E-Stud going home  
Zeke: Gonna use this song as my E-Stud ring tone.

Empathy: Never gonna let my brother E-Stud all alone  
Eddie: Never gonna let my sister E-Stud all alone.  
All: Never gonna let my self E-Stud all alone  
Eddie: Never lose the power of the E-Stud group zone.

Sherita Z: Well, there you have it. The E-Stud Group, on their way to success, with "Jump into the Group Groove."

Derrick Sly: You guys rocked this house. And you clearly were meant to work together. You take turns, you spread out the workload, . . .

Sherita Z: . . . you benefit from each other's strengths and cover for each other's weaknesses . . .

Derrick Sly: And you always push each other forward to get the work done. Well, that's it. I'm Derrick Sly.

Sherita Z: And I'm Sherita Z.

Derrick Sly: And we been "Backin' It Up"

Sherita Z: Here on VH6.

Camera Person; People, that's a wrap!

*(End of scene.)*

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