

ADVICE STATION

QUANTRINA WRITES

What activities would you suggest for children learning to work together. I am not sure what to put in centers.

JEAN REPLIES

Here are some cooperation activities to help children learn to work together. You may need to adjust the activities to fit your situation but basically just plan activities where children need to work together to complete the project.

COOPERATIVE ART – Plan activities such as making a class “red” mural. Have each child contribute by gluing on small red objects or paper scraps. You could also let child color a square piece of paper, then combine the squares into a wall quilt.

COOPERATIVE GAMES - Most games are cooperative. Color board games, “Hi Ho Cherrio”, Go Fish, etc. are great for teaching cooperation. Other ideas would be to let children representing math sets, by asking them to choose a partner and stand in sets of two (or three). Relay races and group treasure hunts are also games that require working together to complete.

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES – Have children work together in small groups to make capital letter shapes on the floor with their bodies. Or have children play such games as “London Bridges”.

COOPERATIVE SCIENCE - Have children work in groups of two to mix blue and yellow food coloring to make the color green. Let children work together to do water experiments, such as; sinking vs. floating. Have children all chop vegetables to use for making vegetable soup. Let all your children take turns shaking the jar when making butter.

COOPERATIVE LANGUAGE – Have your children work together to make a book about a recent field trip. You could also have four children each learn a line of a four line poem and recite it together. Another idea is to let small groups of children act out a familiar children’s story, such as “The Three Little Pigs”.

I hope these activities give you some ideas to do in your centers. Of course, as I said before, you will need to adjust these ideas to fit the season and your situation. Good luck on helping children learn to work together.

Don’t forget to tell your children that “Together We Are Better”.

Jean Warren, Preschool Express