

Where can parents get further information about Co-operative Learning ?

Useful Websites

<http://www.kaganonline.com/>

<http://www.co-operation.org/>

<http://www.lauracandler.com/>

<http://www-acad.sheridanc.on.ca/scls/coop/cooplrn.htm>

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Angus Council is running a major training programme for all teachers in Co-operative Learning . Teachers will receive at least three days training in this methodology.

Key "Co-operative Learning" Terminology

Academic goal	the learning target
Social goal	the teamwork skill target
Home team	the group in which most work is done
Shoulder partner	the person next to your shoulder
Face partner	the person sitting directly across
Fist to five	quick ways of evaluating learning or understanding
Corners Inside outside circle	ways of managing pupils talking, discussing and sharing ideas in pairs
Graffiti board	structured means of managing team problem solving
Stand and deliver	method of supporting all members of the team to recall information.
Celebrations	different kinds of applause used when teams are successful
Roles	jobs team members must perform
Round robin, Rally robin	methods of managing contributions within the team
Numbered heads together	method of taking feedback which ensures everyone understands and contributes to the group task

You are encouraged to discuss the information in this leaflet with your child's teacher.

Insert school name and badge here

Co-operative Learning



A guide for parents and carers

What is Co-operative Learning ?

Co-operative Learning is a highly structured way of forming effective teams . In a learning situation pupils become responsible not only for their own learning but the learning of others in the team .

Is Co-operative Learning groupwork ?

Pupils will normally work in groups of three or four . In order to make these groups work as learning teams, time will have been spent on building teams and the relationships in class . There are five features which make Co-operative Learning different from traditional groupwork.

Co-operative group members :-

- * depend on each other to complete the work. Tasks are structured so they cannot be completed by one or two members. The group is connected to each other and cannot function, achieve and succeed without each other. They share a common identity, resources, space, goals and reward.

"We all sink or swim together."

- * must contribute to and be responsible for the group effort and be able to explain the task, the answer and the way the group reached it. Individuals must succeed in order for the group to succeed.

"No hitchhiking or social loafing!"

- * always have a social goal such as taking turns, listening and criticising the idea and not the person .These skills enhance and improve trust, communication and negotiation and enable the group to work effectively.

"What does good listening look like?"

- * must evaluate how well they have achieved and set targets to improve in the future.

"What could we have done better? "

- * must talk within the group about their ideas ,thinking and learning and value the contributions of others.

"We all talk here."

What does a Co-operative Learning classroom look like?

Desks will be arranged in groups of four so that pupils can easily interact with a face partner , a shoulder partner and a diagonal partner. Teams will have names and logos / flags and perhaps a team cheer . Desks may well be numbered 1-4 with roles displayed. Home teams may have points displayed. Pupils will be engaged with their tasks , talking and supporting team members .Tasks may well be timed. Teachers may interact with certain groups and will interact with the class using a pre-agreed attention signal at the beginning and end of a task .



Why are schools using Co-operative Learning ?

There is a huge body of research evidence which indicates that Co-operative Learning approaches lead to improvements in

- * social inclusion
- * relationships in class.
- * "on task" behaviour
- * development of social skills
- * attitude to teachers and school
- * teamwork
- * academic achievement
- * the ability of pupils to consolidate their learning
- * the classroom environment

What do HMIE say about Co-operative Learning?

Aspects of Co-operative Learning have been the subject of favourable comment in school inspection reports over the last two years . Co-operative Learning has been identified in the good practice section of a recent school inspection report . Co-operative learning is a an example of a collaborative approach which HMIE are promoting as an effective way of learning .

What do pupils say?

Maths is fun.

I like working in a team and helping each other. I am not good at writing but my team pals show me how to do that.

It is not nearly as boring as listening to the teacher talk all day long and then do some boring stuff on worksheets.

What do teachers say?

Sometimes pupils are learning without being aware that they are learning

Co-operative Learning is a really useful tool for working with my tutor group.