

Works and Plays Cooperatively with Others

What does “Works and Plays Cooperatively with Others” mean?

This skill relates to the positive relationships a child has with other children. School provides chances for children to work and play together in a give-and-take manner. A child works and plays cooperatively when they take part in a shared activity and allow other children to contribute. For example, a child shows this skill by helping another child clean up or by listening to another child’s ideas. This skill helps children learn from others and work well in a group.

TIPS for FAMILIES

How can I explain this skill to my child?

Let children know that to succeed you must learn to work and play with others, like when you’re on a team. Being part of a team means learning how to work well with your teammates so you can get things done. Sometimes this means you won’t get everything you want, but being part of a team means learning to compromise with others. When we learn how to work and play well with each other, we make our team the strongest it can be and our team wins!

What are some things I can do to help my child learn this skill?

TIP1

Do an activity with your child where you both can contribute. For example:

1. Read a story or watch a show with your child.
2. Halfway through the story or show take a break and talk with your child about what the ending might be. Let your child guess first and then share your guess.
3. Together with your child, come up with a shared guess of what will happen. This may mean negotiating or compromising to find something you both agree on.
4. You and your child can also draw a picture together of the ending you agreed on. Ask your child to describe the picture when it’s finished and name the parts of it that each of you added. For example, “I drew the sun and the grass, and you drew the people”.
5. Finish the rest of the story or show and compare the ending to the one you decided on together.

TIP2

Make an appreciation notebook. Set up a notebook where your child can write or draw notes of appreciation when someone in your family does something nice. For example, if your child's sibling shares a toy with them, they can write a note or draw a picture about their sibling sharing in the notebook. Your child can choose to give the note or drawing to the person who did something nice, share the note with you, or leave it in the notebook.

TIP3

Create a job for the entire family. Show your child how working together can help you complete a job and get a reward. For example, ask the whole family to work together to set the table for dinner. Give each person a different part of the job to do. For example, one person gets plates and another person puts out drinks. Tell your child that if everyone does their part of the job, then the whole family gets a reward, like having ice cream for dessert.

Make sure your child knows that the only way to get the reward is if each person helps and everyone works together.

TIP4

Keys to connecting. Finding ways to connect with others can be hard for children. You can help your child learn how to positively engage with others by talking about and modeling these keys to connecting:



Listen. Remind your child that everyone likes to be heard and respected. Tell your child that they should listen when others are talking to understand their thoughts and feelings.



Ask a question. Tell your child to ask a question when in a group setting to show that they are interested in other people's thoughts and feelings. Tell your child to wait for others to finish speaking before asking a question. For example, when building a block tower, a child could ask their friend or sibling how tall they want to build the tower.



Contribute. Suggest that your child offers a way to help with a shared activity. For example, when doing a puzzle with others, your child could offer to find all of the blue pieces.



Show support. Let your child know that they can participate by giving a compliment. For example, when coloring with a friend or sibling, your child could say what they like about the other person's drawing.

How can I encourage my child when I see them trying to learn this skill?

Acknowledge your child for their efforts! For example, tell your child, "You worked your hardest to color inside the lines just like I asked, Keisha!" or "James, you really tried your best to put your clothes away the way I asked you to do it!"

To learn more about the tips and where they came from, please visit our references page: ckphilly.org/citations