

Cooperative Learning Checklist

When you experience difficulties with cooperative learning, don't give up! Use this troubleshooting checklist and try the suggested solutions.

- Do my students **care** about each other as individuals? (If not, try using more quick & easy teambuilder and classbuilder activities.)
- Do my students have the **social skills** needed to participate in cooperative learning activities? (If not, teach a new social skill each week and keep the activities simple and structured. Use the cooperative self-evaluation forms after activities.)
- Do my students **want** to participate in cooperative learning activities? (If not, share with students the rationale for using cooperative learning activities. . . academics, skills for employment, etc. If necessary, switch to structured independent activities with lots of paperwork . . . then try again later!)
- Are my students responding to the **Quiet Signal** in 3 to 5 seconds? (If not, reteach the Quiet Signal and use a reward system to reinforce.)
- Do my students have trouble **following directions** during cooperative activities? (If so, be sure to give directions in bite-sized pieces and model with a team. Write the activity directions on the overhead or a chart.)
- Are a **few individuals** causing problems within their teams? (If so, remove the individuals and give them plenty of seatwork activities while the others are doing cooperative learning activities. Give them a chance to earn their way back into the group in a day or two.)
- Are your students on task but far **too noisy**? (If so, use the Erase a Letter technique or Team Stop Signs).
- Are some students **not participating** in team activities? (Analyze the structure and make sure you are providing for equal participation. Use structures like Roundrobin, Pairs Check, Timed-Pair-Share and Rallytable to encourage kids to do their fair share.)