

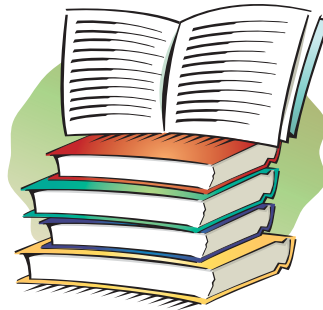
# Supporting Common Core State Standards

## How to work well with others

Group work allows students to explore subjects in depth and learn how to work together—a major focus of the Common Core State Standards. However, many students struggle when working in groups. Helping your child learn how to work well with others is one of the best things you can do to help him succeed in school and in life.

### Instill these qualities

- **Self-esteem.** Your child must believe in himself before he can work with others. He must believe that he can make a contribution.
- **Respect for others.** Your child must see that others also have valuable ideas, opinions and abilities.
- **Responsibility.** Your child must accept his share of the group's work, do the best he can to help get it done and stand by the decisions of the group.
- **Ability to listen** as well as speak up. Working with a group of people requires lots of communication.
- **Flexibility and tolerance.** Cooperation requires considering what others say. Agreement with everyone's ideas is not required, but tolerance of their ideas is.
- **Willingness to compromise.** Group work should combine the best from everyone. That requires "give and take" to reach agreement.
- **Respect for fairness and equality.** Teamwork is based on fair treatment, sensitivity to one another's feelings and respect for each other as equals.



- **A positive attitude.** Working with others may take more effort than working alone, but it can have greater results.

### Follow four steps for group projects

1. **Gather the details.** As soon as your child is assigned a group project, she should ask to see the assignment sheet. When is the project due? Who are the members of her group? Will this project be completed at school? Will her group need to meet outside of school?
2. **Select a meeting spot.** Encourage your child to offer her house, if the group must work outside of school. That way, you can keep an eye on the group as they work. Have your child call or email everyone in the group.
3. **Make a plan.** As a group, decide who's going to be responsible for what. Have your child write down each person's responsibility and the date it must be completed. Suggest that they submit this list as part of the project. That way, the teacher will know if one member didn't come through with her part.
4. **Be flexible.** What if your child does not get along with one of the group members? Remind her that she doesn't need to like someone to work with her.