



Cooperation

COOPERATION means getting along with each other and working together to accomplish a common goal.

Activity 1

Discuss what **COOPERATION** means to your child. Stress that cooperation means working together and getting along. Explain that cooperation means helping and supporting others and working as a team. Try an experiment with your child to see how well he or she can do certain activities **WITHOUT** using either of his or her thumbs. (Examples: Brush teeth, write name, unwrap a candy.) Explain how when the whole hand works together, it is much easier to accomplish things. Compare that example to people cooperating together instead of working alone. Emphasize that when family members all work together, things are much easier.

Activity 2

Ask your child to describe what it would be like to try to play baseball or throw a football all by himself or herself. Emphasize how working together on a team contributes to success. Ask your child what happens when someone is not a team player. Tell your child about a team you played on when you were in school. Think of game to play with your child that demonstrates the importance of cooperation. (Examples include: playing catch or a board game.) Have fun cooperating!

Activity 3

Prepare a treat with your child using a simple recipe that reinforces the value of cooperation. You could make something as elaborate as a batch of cookies (with the child's task being to crack the eggs and measure the flour) or as simple as a glass of chocolate milk (mixing chocolate syrup into milk and stirring). Point out how cooperating with you, taking turns, and following directions contributes to creating a yummy treat!

Activity 4

Teach your child that in nature, there are certain animals that work together (cooperate) to live. One example of this type of cooperation is between a little bird called the Egyptian Plover and the Nile crocodile who actually work together to help each other. Explain that the bird eats little bugs that could harm the crocodile from off the crocodile's back, and even climbs inside its mouth to get some bugs! The crocodile profits by having its body cleaned off and the bird gets a safe place to eat all the bugs it wants. Explain that cooperation between two very different creatures can produce some amazing things! Think of ways cooperating in your family makes good things happen.

Activity 5

Ask your child what would happen if everyone in a circle was moving in one direction and then one person in the circle started moving in the opposite direction. What would happen if everyone were moving in the same direction and one person suddenly stopped moving and sat down? Try the circle movement activity with family members. Explain that working together is the key!