

GUIDELINES 18.2

Tips for Effective Use of Cooperative Learning

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Teaching tips</i>
Positive interdependence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a group goal stating that all group members must reach their learning goals.• Provide rewards based on the success of the group (e.g., a group grade, bonus points, or tangible rewards).• Distribute limited resources.• Assign each member a specific role.• Divide the work so that one member's assignment is necessary for the next member to complete his or her assignment.
Individual and group accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Randomly select one student's product to represent the group.• Test all group members and average the scores.
Interpersonal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach communication skills, especially in the elementary grades.• Include interpersonal objectives for a cooperative lesson.• Inform students of the collaborative skills needed to work successfully in their groups.
Face-to-face interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor group members' use of resources and level of challenge and feedback.• Monitor and scaffold interactions and collaboration, especially for students in elementary grades.
Group processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow time for groups to reflect on their functioning so students do not assume that speed and finishing early are more important than meaningful learning.• Have students identify what was helpful and unhelpful in their interactions.• Use information about group processing to make decisions about what to change for the next task or what changes to make in group placements.