

BRIDGE ROAD SCHOOL

FOCUS OF THE WEEK

Cooperation

Together everyone achieves more

Team work



Taking turns



Remembering the rules



Following instructions



Listening to others



There is always a solution



There are things that our **kids** have to learn throughout their development because they have not been born with this knowledge. One of these things is **cooperation, collaboration** and **teamwork** with others. It is one of the most important aspects that they will discover in their lives since we live in an interdependent society. That is, people do not usually act in isolation and with greater cooperation better performance is achieved.

We have to avoid allowing children to focus on their own **selfishness** and wanting everything for themselves without thinking about others, *but how do we do this?* Although it does require patience, respect and generosity, virtues that are difficult to possess in our busy daily life. Learning to cooperate means that a person can think about and balance their own needs and wants with another person's needs and wants. Many people think that cooperation means the child does what the adult wants. That's not the case. True cooperation is a give and take between people that ends up with something they both agree on. Cooperation is a great skill to teach children.

Some tips for helping children learn the skill of cooperation:

- Taking turns - develops friendships, communication with others and playing games
- Explaining the rules - great way to teach self discipline rules
- Verbal rule reminders - remind children what to do instead of telling them what not to do
- Model behaviour you want children to follow - The more children see adults acting appropriately the more normal it becomes
- Problem solving - so children learn to begin to solve their own problems
- Give children choices - by giving children choices it helps them feel like they have some power
- Give ideas, not commands - This makes children feel they have some control
- Give positive reinforcement - Be sure to point out what was done and why it is important

