

# Working Together

Often at school when you are in primary school, you will be asked to work in a group to create something, to learn something or to find out about information. For some gifted students this is a challenge – sometimes the group is a mixed group that includes people with different interests and abilities, and at other times it is a homogenous group where you all have similar abilities. Each type of group presents its own challenges.

In a mixed group there will be different levels of focus and speed of learning or understanding the material. Some members will be good at different parts of the task such as gathering materials, sorting out information, making decisions about what is needed and what is not and generating creative ideas. Others will be good at deciding how to present the work, and chasing up the details to make sure everything is there. Sometimes there is a clear leader and they have the ideas and can organise everyone to achieve it.

In a group where everyone has a similar range of ability there will be many competing ideas and sometimes everyone expects to be the leader, or wants to take the task in different ways. This can be a much harder group to work in because ideas are challenged and everyone knows a lot of information. Being able to accept that your idea is not the only good one, and that others critically look at your thinking and don't follow your lead can be a challenge to cope with. Learning to work alongside others rather than on your own or as the leader can be valuable but difficult.

Many tasks now require people to work together and being a team member is seen as one of the ways we will cope in the future. Being a team member requires some skills and sometimes is a difficult thing to master.

Here are two links that show times when team work is required for everyone to achieve the goal. Think about the different abilities that are needed and how each person has skills that enables them to take part – varying levels of skills are all included in the teams.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV\\_GVSxUY8M&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV_GVSxUY8M&NR=1)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWGWY\\_2Q2k&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWGWY_2Q2k&NR=1)

So how to be a good team member? (Think about how these skills are seen in the clips or have helped the tasks to be achieved.)

- Listen to what others have to say and think about what they are saying – be a good listener.
- Wait for others to suggest their ideas as well, rather than rushing in with 'the' idea.
- Enjoy taking a backseat role sometimes, completing the tasks you have to do but not having to be in charge.
- Encourage others to voice their opinions as well by asking them for their ideas.
- Make sure you complete the part of the task that is yours to the very best of your ability.
- Compromise if there are a few ideas – see if you can work out a way to bring them together to an even better idea!

## Simple Gardens

Even if you live in a flat or a high rise building you can still experience growing things – especially now as the weather warms up! You can grow some vegetables in small pots and enjoy looking after them and eating them!

I found this information on this site – it also gives you more ideas for balcony gardening:

<http://gomestic.com/gardening/six-awesome-edible-plants-for-your-patio-or-balcony/#ixzz0ySnyFvCW>



### Tomatoes

Tomatoes are probably one of the most commonly grown edible plants that people have on their balconies or patios. There are many smaller varieties that do well in pots. There are many varieties of tomatoes, including yellow and black ones. When selecting a tomato plant, pick one that is

shorter, with a thick stem, rather than a tall lanky one. Tomatoes are pretty easy to grow, you just need to provide sunlight and regular watering (making sure their leaves remain dry).

This is just a few of the plants that work well – and taste great! They help you think more clearly because you have time to relax as you water them – and pots of vegetables need watering every day. Caring for them and watching them grow reminds us of the cycle of things in the world and of our responsibilities to look after the natural world. It is something simple that produces a good result – and this helps us to feel good.

Of course, sometimes whatever we do plants don't survive. Sometimes this is about too much water, not enough, poor soil or simply the wrong place for the pots (too much wind, too much heat from the sun). Think about why it might not have worked and then start again!

Until next issue – Denise.

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