

## Week 4:

# Cooperation Skills



### *Cooperation*

## Cooperative Art Projects

#### **Objective:**

- To provide an opportunity for students to learn to cooperate on a single project
- Increase students' abilities to work cooperatively rather than competitively in the classroom.
- To help students learn to build on ideas of others and allow others to build on theirs

#### **Materials:**

- Tables arranged such that 3 or more family members can stand around the table with each having his/her own large sheet of art paper (2'X2')
- One 2ft X 2ft sheet of art paper per person
- Paint brushes and various water color paints to share
- Paper towels and water dishes for each table
- One paint brush for each person
- Music on tape
- painting smocks

#### **SEL Home Activity:**

We are going to experience the artist's version of the game, "Musical Chairs". When the music begins, begin your painting on the paper in front of you. But, no talking allowed during the game! And, you must stop painting as soon as the music stops.

After 1 minute, stop the music and inform everyone that they must now move to the painting on their right. Restart the music and have everyone now begin adding to that painting in front of them. Continue this process until each person has gone around and added to all the paintings at least one or two times and is back to their original painting.

**Closure:** Discuss how each person felt when they first had to move on to another painting?

What did you do? How did you feel as you proceeded thru the art activity?

How did you feel when you saw your original painting at the end?

Have you ever experienced something similar to this (others adding to your ideas, projects, etc.?). How did it go?

How can we use what we've learned here for handling projects more successfully at home, at school, or elsewhere in our lives?

#### **Other Possible Family 'Homework' Activities:**

- Brainstorm other ways in which this Musical Chairs Cooperative game be applied to daily household tasks and give each a try (e.g., cooking dinner, cleaning up after dinner, yard work, and so forth).



## *Cooperation*

# Five Squares Puzzle

### **Objective(s):**

- Develop cooperation skills in problem solving tasks

### **Materials:**

- Five squares puzzle pieces in identical envelopes (see attached diagram)
- 5 chairs facing one another arranged around a table and five family members of any and all ages (extended family or friends can be invited to fill all seats)

### **Lesson Plan:**

***Introduction:*** Share examples of times when you have each had to solve a problem or accomplish a difficult task as part of a team effort (e.g., in school, at work, in sports, etc.). Remind everyone that “teamwork” is one of the most important skills needed to be successful in all areas of our lives. So, today, we will practice our team problem solving skills.

***Activity:*** Place participants in the chairs around the table and give each one of the prepared envelopes containing three puzzle pieces (see directions attached). Inform them that their task is to form five squares of **equal size** from these puzzle pieces. The group is not finished until each member has in front of him/her a perfect square of the same size as those in front of each of the other members of the group.

#### **GAME RULES:**

- Participants **MAY NOT** speak at any time
- Participants **MAY NOT** ask for a puzzle piece or in any way signal to another person to give him/her a piece.
- Participants **MAY NOT** take a puzzle piece from another member.
- Participants **MAY NOT** assemble a square for another member.
- There is no time limit!!!
- Members **MAY GIVE** a puzzle piece to other members of the group but not indicate how it is to be used.
- Puzzle pieces **MAY BE GIVEN** to another player but cannot be placed in the center for anyone to take.

***Closure:*** Follow up discussion can explore how each person felt at the beginning, middle, and end of the activity.

What did others do that was helpful?

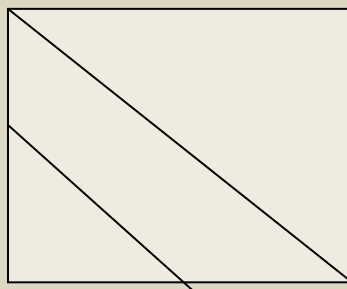
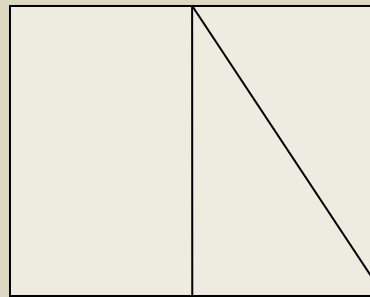
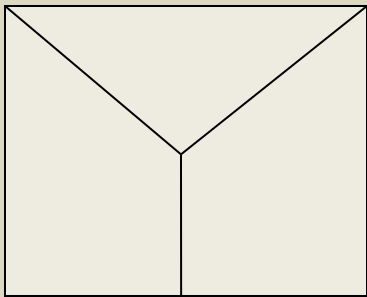
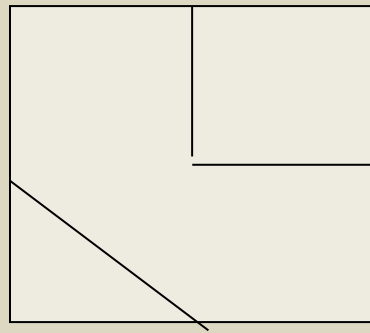
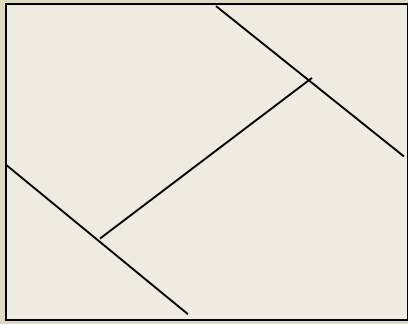
What did others do that was frustrating or problematic for the group?.

Share thoughts on situations where such cooperation is needed for all to be successful.

### **Other Possible Family ‘Homework’ Activities:**

- Make similar puzzles using complete sentences or math problems to be solved such that all are correct
- Parents can share (e.g., write a short note) describing how cooperation and problem solving occurs in their work place
- Make a list together of examples when group problem solving is required in sports, business, government, and other jobs or professions.

## *Five Squares Puzzle Pieces:*



### **DIRECTIONS**

For each design, use a 6-inch square piece of heavy paper. Mark the squares as above. Then, randomly mark each of the 16 puzzle pieces as either A, B, C, D, or E. Cut out the puzzle pieces and place all A pieces in the "A" envelope, B pieces in the "B" envelope, etc. Place students in groups of 5 facing one another at a table and give each student one of the five envelopes. Then, follow the instructions as on the previous page