

Poster Presentation ES

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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This self-study project was motivated by the children in my classroom during my student teaching practicum. During the beginning of this experience, I observed my class as whole struggling with cooperative learning skills inside the classroom and social skills outside of the classroom. The following questions were posed during this study:

- How can I design cooperative learning lessons and activities that fit the needs of my class as a whole?
- How can I effectively teach the skills and the importance of the skills required to be successful in a cooperative learning group?
- How can I help my students understand that many skills developed within the classroom can be implemented in the world outside their classroom – specifically skills learned through working with others?

Important components of this self-study were lessons using cooperative learning, class discussions after completing cooperative learning activities, and close observation about how children began to incorporate cooperative social skills into other aspects of their lives. At the end of the semester, I was able to conclude that cooperative learning based lessons produced the best results when students were given specific tasks, when students were grouped based on personal opinions about what their strengths were, and when a teacher or adult promoted a team mentality and stressed the common goal while students worked. In regards to how well students implemented their cooperative learning social skills in outside environments, I found differing results from student to student and my data relies strongly on what types of situations students were involved in.