# Using cooperative learning: an interactive pedagogy for all

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# Outline of the session

**What is cooperative learning?**

**What are the benefits?**

**Developing the skills of cooperating**

**Key stages in implementing CL**

**A phased introduction**

# What is cooperative learning?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E24c5RkrMw

Break out groups

Introductions

Discuss – what is the difference between group work and genuine cooperative learning?

# Cooperative learning - True or false?

1. Students sit together at one table and talk about their work.
2. Everyone in a group is aware of their roles and responsibilities and each one is accountable for his or her contribution.
3. Students feel valued and respected by the group and support each other to learn.
4. Some members of a group lead, whilst others listen.
5. When the teacher asks a question of the learners, everyone is given time to think about the question, and usually to talk to a peer, before sharing an answer.

# Why CL works – what research tells us

**Two main reasons why cooperative learning works:**
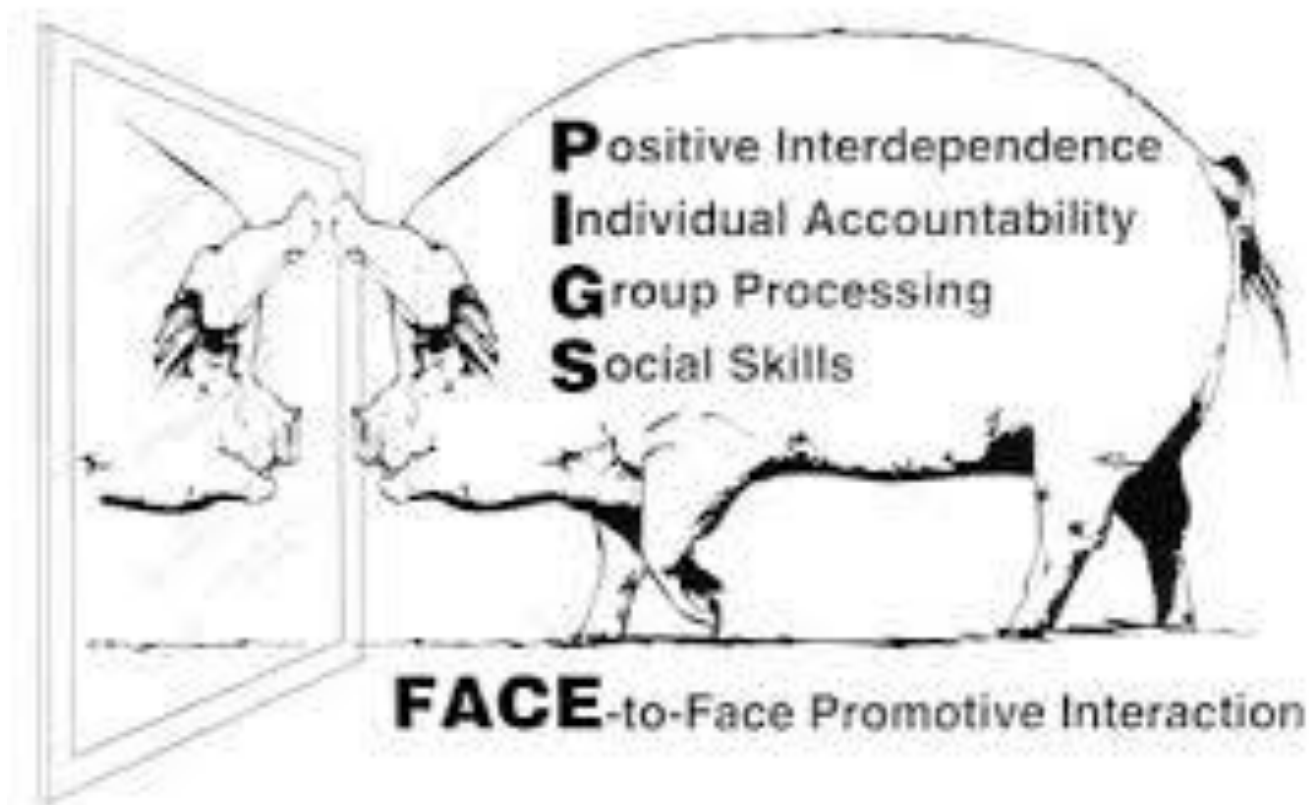
1. Motivational/social cohesion

2. Cognitive

Think time – note key points

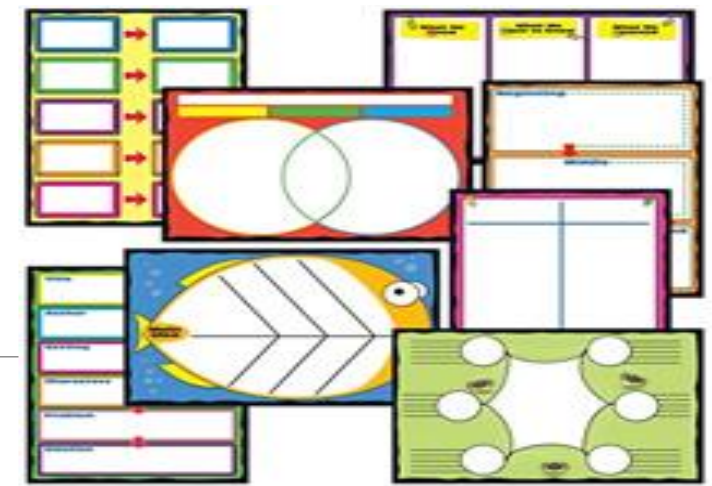**Key research findings of benefits**

1. Improves academic outcomes

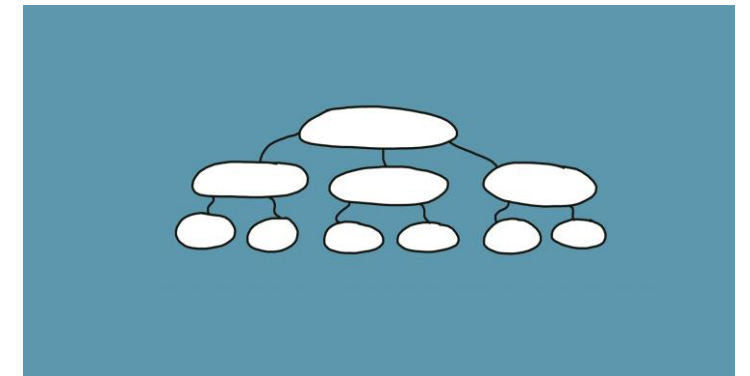2. Supports social and emotional learning

3. Improves student relationships

# Essential elements of cooperative learning



Positive Interdependence
Individual Accountability
Group Processing
Social Skills

FACE-to-Face Promotive Interaction

# 5 key elements of CL

- Break out groups of 4/5
- Each member takes one aspect from page 2 of handout (number yourselves)
- Read the definition and note key words/aspects
- Take turns to explain
- One member is the scribe - jointly create a graphic organizer
- Post your organizer.

# Developing the skills of cooperating

Two types of skills:

1. **Task skills**
   Following instructions
   Staying on task
   Generating and elaborating on ideas
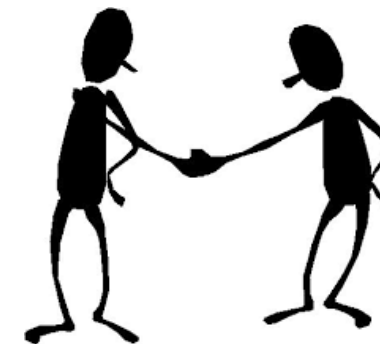   Managing time successfully
   Planning and reviewing progress

2. **Working relationship skills**
   Everyone participating
   Helping and encouraging each other
   Reaching agreement
   Showing appreciation

# Teaching teamwork skills

Video example from

University of Washington
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eY2fG_Fbm2M


Post 2/3 key points from this video

# Steps in teaching the skills of cooperating

1. Establish the need for the skill

2. Defining the skill

3. Guided Practice

4. Provide time for group reflection of progress

5. Generalised application of the skill

| Look like… | Sound like.. | Feel like… |
|------------|--------------|------------|
|            |              |            |

# Key Steps for Implementing Cooperative Learning

1. Establish class cohesion and a democratic learning environment

2. Carry out team building activities

3. Teaching the skills of working cooperatively

4. Teach conflict resolution skills

5. Incorporate cooperative learning into lessons beginning with partner work

In groups: Select one step that you feel is important to begin and choose one strategy (from handout) that you feel would support this.
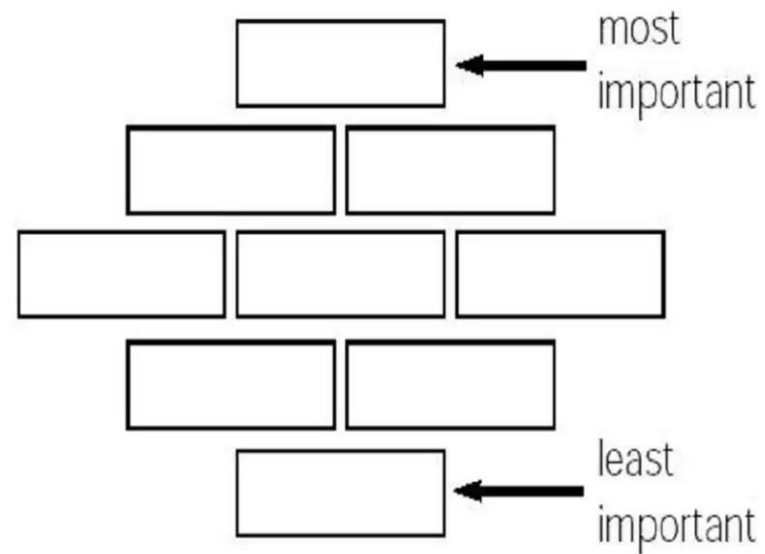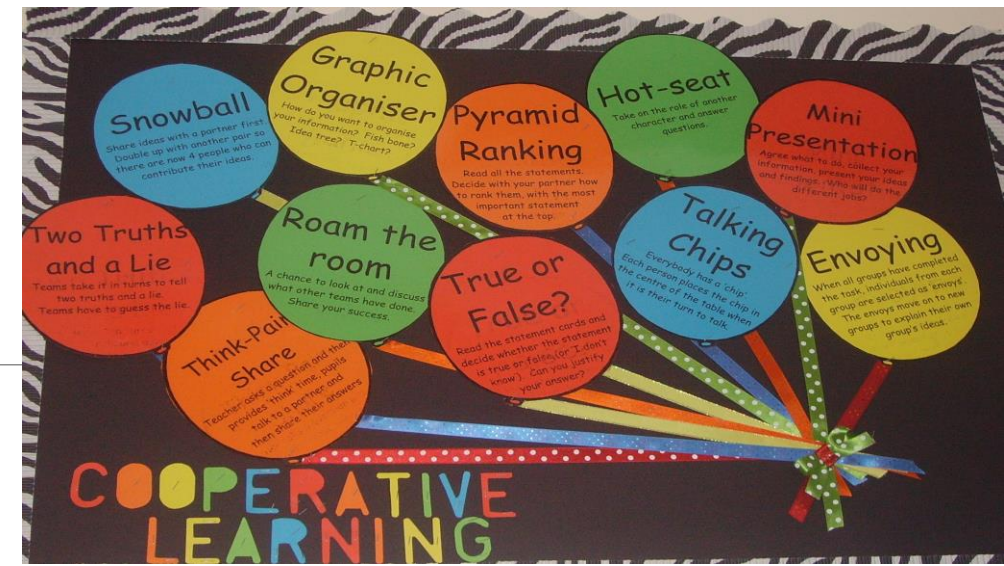
Post a response.

# Phased introduction

Diamond ranking activity:

Work in groups to rank the statements on page 7 in a progression.

# Using structures



Two stay, one stray

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckfmBMTS0rc

Showdown:
**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xh1v36YiaUc**

Review list of ten popular structures
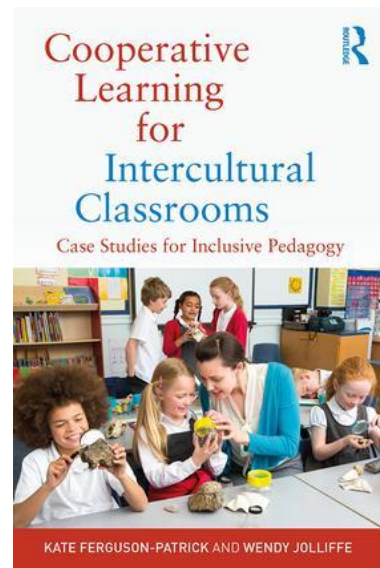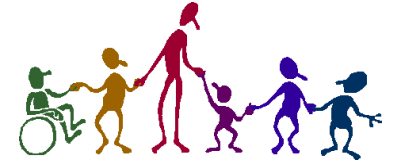
# Plenary

*'If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow.'*          (Dewey, 1944: 167)

❑Key take-aways

# Any questions?

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