



## Portfolio Activity 6.2

# HOW DO I INTRODUCE COLLABORATIVE SKILLS TO STUDENTS?

### Materials Needed:

- Something to write with

A. Elementary and middle grade students need to be introduced to collaborative skills, and these skills need to be developed over time. Children don't naturally collaborate. For each of the following skills, think of questions you might ask children as a means of introduction. For example, imagine you are introducing the skill "agreeing with others." You might ask students, "What does it mean to agree with others?" (to compromise or reach the same opinion on something), "Why should members of a group agree with each other?" (so that arguments and fights are avoided), and "How will the group's ability to complete science projects improve if students are in agreement?" (it can proceed with a project without being sidetracked by disagreements).

### Skills

- Talking in appropriate voices in small groups.
- Taking turns using science equipment.
- Sharing science materials.
- Acknowledging others' contributions in a group.
- Staying on task during a project

- Completing work on time
  - Helping others understand science ideas
  - Using "I" messages (saying what one thinks rather than blaming others, such as "I wish you would re-design that artifact" rather than "You didn't design that artifact correctly")
  - Criticizing in a positive way
  - Listening actively
  - Rephrasing others' science ideas
  - Being patient
  - Compromising
  - Negotiating
  - Asking for justification for science answers/responses
  - Probing or redirecting questions in a group
- B. Discussing collaborative skills is only a first step in introducing collaborative skills. Develop a collaborative lesson. Decide what you would do to reinforce these skills. How would you develop the skills?
- C. Try the lesson. Evaluate how well the introduction worked with students. What else do you need to do?
- D. Record your ideas in your portfolio.