Cooperation is:
- Working together for the benefit of everyone.
- Understanding each other’s needs and strengths.
- Following an agreed set of rules and encouraging one another.

Synonyms:
- teamwork
- helpful

Important Phrase:
- ‘working together’

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Children understand that cooperating means working together. Children can say how the animals in the story of the ‘Little Hen’ got it wrong and explain how they should have behaved.

Suggested Resources:
Copy of the Little Red Hen story, colouring pencils, puppets, small world farmyard set, scenario cards.

Script:
Read the story of the Little Red Hen together. Ask children to recall the story, step by step. Explain that this is an example of what happens when people don’t cooperate. What happens? How does the Little Red Hen feel? What should the other animals have done? Create a list of ‘rules’ from this discussion (e.g. the other animals should look and listen carefully to see whether the Little Red Hen needed help; they could have helped the hen in this way; if they helped the Little Red Hen she should say thank you, etc.). Introduce the word cooperate into the discussion. What does cooperation mean? Steer children towards understanding that cooperation means working together and that in order to do this we need to have some rules. Recap the rules from the Little Red Hen (see if someone needs help; help them in the best way that you can; be polite and say thank you).

Suggested Activities:

Creative: Children draw and label two pictures of the Little Red Hen - one depicts what happened in the story and the other shows how the animals should have cooperated.

Role Play: Small groups of children take it in turns to use puppets to act out various scenarios depicted on picture cards. Picture cards should depict problems - for example, children bumping into each other in the playground or a very messy kitchen with only one person tidying up - and children should be encouraged to act out how the characters should cooperate together. Year 6 children may support this activity.

Small World: Small groups of children take it in turns to play with a model farm yard. For example, each child could have an animal and together they can build and maintain the farm.

Plenary:
Gather children to the carpet to present children’s drawings of the right and wrong way to help the Little Red Hen. Recap what it means to cooperate.

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Teamwork

Helpful

‘working together’
Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:
Well done for working cooperatively. You have all shown that when you work together, you can make a happy classroom for everyone to enjoy.

Correction:
Remember to cooperate by taking turns listening carefully to everyone in your group. When you do that, everyone can have a go and enjoy the activity.