

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK: LEARNING ABOUT COOPERATION THROUGH STORIES



Cooperation is:

- * Working together towards a shared goal for the benefit of everyone.
- * Understanding each other's needs and strengths.
- * Following an agreed set of rules and encouraging one another.

Synonyms:

- * teamwork
- * helping hand

Important Phrase:

- * many hands make light work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children understand that children can achieve greater things when they work together and can talk about their own examples.

Suggested Resources:

It's Mine by Leo Lionni.

Script:

Explain to children that today they will be thinking about what they can achieve when they work together. Read the story of *It's Mine* by Leo Lionni aloud to the class. Generate a list of words to describe the frogs before and during the storm. How did the frogs behave before the storm? How did this change once the storm started? Why did they change their behaviour? What might have happened had they not changed how they worked together? Explain the phrase 'many hands make light work'. What did the frogs achieve together at the end of the story? Could they do this by themselves?

Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:

Well done - you have shown that when you work together many hands make light work. You have included everyone in your activity and got the job done.

Suggested Activities:

All together: Children think about times when 'many hands made light work' and share them with the class. Encourage children to think about times when they cooperated with someone or a group of people to achieve something that they could not do by themselves.

Story: *It's Mine* by Leo Lionni (as per circle time).

Writing: Children complete the sentences 'One day my friend helped me to...' and 'It made me feel...'. (These should be printed on lined A4 sheets with the sentence starters and a picture from the story.)

Plenary:

Children share their writing work with the class. Draw attention to children's examples of what they achieved as a group and how this was bigger and better than what they would have completed had they not cooperated.

Correction:

Remember that when we don't behave cooperatively then the work will take a much longer time and will be much harder to do.