

teamwork at school

Teamwork is a vital part of life, both at school and away from school, because you will always have to work in some way with other people. A good place to find examples of the importance of teamwork is in sports, such as netball, football, soccer, basketball, hockey, rugby or relays. As well as sport there are many other examples of where teamwork is essential, such as in debating, musicals, projects or assignments.

In any team all of the members rely on each other and have to help and support each other in order for the team to do well. When all of the people in a team or group do work well together, they will perform better than a group of people who do not work together. It is also important to remember that when a team does succeed, each member also individually succeeds. In addition to helping people do well, teamwork can also be fun.

➤ **Think of some examples of different teams or groups that you have been involved with and enjoyed.**

Some of the reasons why teamwork can be helpful include:

- Teams can allocate tasks to different members' strengths
- You can get the job done faster
- You can have other people to talk with about what you are doing
- You can do more with a group than by yourself

➤ **How else can working together be helpful?**

When you work by yourself you don't have to think or worry about anyone else. But when you work in a team, you do have to think about others, which is why it is important to remember a few things to help you work with others.

To help you work in a team:

- **Listen to other people's opinions** and do not interrupt
- Wait your turn to speak
- Ensure that everyone is able to make suggestions
- Make sure that you **share your thoughts**
- Write down what each person has to do
- Ensure that you share the jobs and that one or two people do not do all of the work and others do hardly any work
- Get together and see how everyone in your team is going
- Encourage and support each other
- Be patient and remember that different people work at different speeds

➤ **What do you think are some other important things when working in a team?**

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Some common challenges when working in a team include:

- Being impatient with other members
- Feeling like you are not being included
- Feeling like you are not a valued team member
- Allocating too many or too few tasks to team members
- Having different goals to other team members or not being unified in aiming towards your goals
- Some members only wanting to do certain aspects of the work

Some possible solutions to overcome the challenges listed above include, having regular meetings or reviews to monitor progress, keeping notes or minutes from the meetings, sharing the workload, ensuring that the team environment is enjoyable, as well as focused on the task, and ensuring that the team communicates effectively with all members.

➤ **What are some additional challenges you may face in a team environment?**

➤ **What solutions can you suggest to overcome any challenges?**

Working together can be challenging but the results and rewards can be significant. When you do work in a team, you can also share the rewards, emotions and memories of achieving something, which can be special.

together you can achieve more