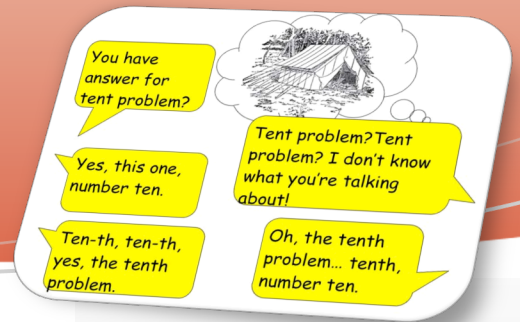


Guiding the Conversation

This learning guide is designed for use by professional learning communities, learning coaches, teacher-leaders or as a self-paced study to gain expertise with specific cooperative learning strategies that support social inclusion, language development and academic achievement.

This conversation guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip “Fostering intercultural communication through cooperative group work.” The video presentation is supported by power point slides, “fostering intercultural communication.”



Questions for Discussion

Coehlo emphasizes that group work needs to be well-organized and structured. Why is this important?

Coehlo suggests that classroom tasks should consist of 1/3 whole group, 1/3 cooperative groups, and 1/3 individual. In your experience, is this the way most classroom tasks are divided? How could this ratio be achieved?

Five strategies were demonstrated. How have you used these in the context of the Alberta Program of Studies? What other cooperative learning structures or strategies are you familiar with that would also promote intercultural communication?

Participants were asked to brainstorm ideas about the socio-linguistic skills required by students to participate in group discussions. What other language skills or behaviours do students need to be taught to be able to participate effectively in group learning tasks?

e.g. What can we do or say when...

- We need to decide on a topic
- We disagree with the speaker
- We don't understand what was said

Video Guide

Synopsis:

Coehlo presents 5 positive effects of cooperative group work

Coehlo outlines 3 ways that cooperative group work promotes second language acquisition

Coehlo offers 7 considerations for achieving the best results from cooperative learning

Coehlo demonstrates useful cooperative learning strategies. These include:

- Peer tutoring
- Think-pair-share
- Group brainstorming
- Three-step interviews
- Learning teams
- Jigsaw groups