

# Happy Class Workshop:

# COLLABORATION

Think about how you encourage collaboration in class. Read the statements below and reflect on your own teaching style. Then circle *never*, *sometimes*, *usually*, or *always*.

**1. I put my students into pairs or small groups to check the answers to activities.**

never                      sometimes                      usually                      always

**2. I encourage my students to listen respectfully to one another.**

never                      sometimes                      usually                      always

**3. I have my students work with different students each class.**

never                      sometimes                      usually                      always

**4. I include activities in my lessons that require collaboration, such as games and projects.**

never                      sometimes                      usually                      always

**5. I encourage my students to say what they like about one another's work.**

never                      sometimes                      usually                      always

Collaboration activities help build teamwork skills and create a healthy, cooperative environment. Vary the way you divide your students into groups and pairs so that they learn to work with different classmates, not just their friends. Pairing students with mixed abilities will enable students with different strengths and weaknesses to help each other improve. Teach students to listen attentively to one another, respect different opinions, and say what they like about other students' work. Walk around the classroom to supervise your students while they are working, but limit your input so that activities are student centered.

**Try This!** To get your students working with different classmates, walk around the classroom assigning a different number, color, animal, etc., to each student (e.g., cat, dog, horse, bear, cat, dog, horse, bear ... ). Then have students with the same category work together.

