



march 2022

Batman and Robin, Ernie and Bert, SpongeBob and Patrick - all good relationships involve a certain level of working together, and elementary students are at the perfect age for us to encourage healthy relationships and working together. That's why this month, we're focusing on the Big Idea of...

COOPERATION:
*Working together to do more than
you can do alone.*

Cooperation MARCH 2022



SAY IT:

Cooperation means working together to do more than you can do alone.

KNOW IT:

ASK A KID:

- Have you ever had to ask a friend to help you with something? Have you ever been asked by a friend to help them do something? How did it feel to work together to accomplish a goal?
- Think of the last time you cooperated with classmates, siblings or your parents to complete a task. Examples might be group work in your class, household chores or helping bring the groceries in from the car. Think of how much more time and effort it would have taken you/them to do the task alone.

ASK A GROWN UP:

- Can you think of a time when you worked alone and it would have been helpful to have someone to help you?
- Tell about a time you worked together with a team toward a common goal?
- What are some ways you have shown others that you are willing to cooperate?

SEE IT:

Have a family movie night one weekend this month and rent or check out *Remember the Titans*. It is a phenomenal movie, based on a true story, that portrays teamwork and cooperation. The players and coaches on the team were not simply working together to win football games, they were also tasked with changing the culture and attitudes of their small community in Virginia back in the early 1970's.

BE IT:

Sit down as a family and discuss each member's role and responsibility in maintaining a clean and functional house. Together, create or refine a chore list. Assign age appropriate tasks to each member, even involving very young children (an example might be to pick up toys and put them in basket every night before bed). Promote this as a positive, not a consequence. It is an opportunity for everyone to cooperate because a lot more can be done together than alone.

PHASE

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It's pretty simple – the words we use with kids matter.

Our words have an impact each day on what kids think of themselves, their future, and their interactions with the world. Here are some words you can use every day:

Good morning!

I love you

I have noticed...

I hope you know...

Have fun!

Keep trying

I'm really proud when...

Work hard

I've been thinking...

I'm sorry

Be kind

I can always count on you to...

So don't miss it. It's just a phase! Make sure you are using words every day to build up the skills you want to see in your child.

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COOPERATION // FLAMINGO // ROSE GOLD

Flamingos love their social lives. All six species gather in flocks and perform group courtship dances. Flocks of Greater Flamingos, found in Florida and on several other continents, can number in the tens of thousands – even up to 250,000!

There is safety in numbers, especially for individuals putting their heads down in the water to feed. What's for lunch? Shrimp, worms, crustaceans, tiny algae and other bits of food that flamingos strain with special beaks. That brilliant pink flamingo color comes from their diet.


When it's time to raise young, though, a male and female work as a pair. They build a volcano-like nest together and take turns keeping their single egg warm. Both parents feed and care for their new hatchling, and might even help a neighbor with chick-care duties.

In the five to 12 days a chick stays on the nest, it feeds on special "crop milk" from the upper digestive tract of its mother or father. Sometimes,

other adult flamingos can help feed the baby this way. Feeding young takes a lot out of the parents – their plumage (feathers) grows pale during this time. But they are in the pink again when their chick starts eating independently. The chick, born gray or white, comes into its own pink color at around two years of age.

For many years, it was thought flamingos were not native to Florida but were an invasive species resulting from escaped captive birds. Recently, however, researchers have decided the state's population is a historical one – just beginning to recover after being nearly hunted to extinction there by 1900.

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Flamingos get by with a little help from their friends.

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Naturally occurring gold is yellow, but it can be blended with other metals to create different colors. Rose gold includes copper and other materials, mixed as an alloy into a magical color that's a favorite among jewelry designers. The more copper mixed in, the redder the color. True rose gold is 75 percent gold, more than 22 percent copper, and a sliver of silver. At the turn of the 20th century in Russia, it was showcased in Carl Fabergé's famous jeweled eggs. As a color, rose gold suggests warmth, elegance, style, and a sense of calm.

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