

# Cooperative learning strategies

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Facilitate collaborative learning' from the Guide: [Positive peer relationships](#)

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- Includes:**
- Utilise cooperative learning groups
  - Jigsaw learning
  - Reciprocal teaching of reading
  - Peer tutoring
  - Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Facilitate collaborative learning](#)

Suggestion: [Cooperative learning strategies](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/cooperative-learning-strategies](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/cooperative-learning-strategies)

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## Utilise cooperative learning groups

Successful cooperative learning groups:

- can be teacher-selected to ensure balance, inclusion, and productivity
- can be formed around target students with supportive peers
- are no larger than four students
- give students specific roles, for example, using [cooperative group role cards](#)
- can be changed periodically. It can take students some time to build relationships. Think about changing groups to extend the relationships your target students have.

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## Jigsaw learning

The **Jigsaw approach** in action in a year 5–6 class. Expert learners are deliberately grouped with those that need support.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/97273149>

Closed Captions

Source:

[ESOL Online \(NZ\)](#)

<https://esolonline.tki.org.nz/ESOL-Online/Planning-for-my-students-needs/Resources-for-planning/ESOL-teaching-strategies/Reading/Jigsaw-reading>

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## Reciprocal teaching of reading

Reciprocal teaching of reading is effective in improving the achievement of learners from diverse backgrounds.

The structured small-group approach (where students have specific roles) provides a tool for supporting students to interact and collaborate successfully.

It involves four explicit strategies for reading comprehension:

1. Formulating questions to stimulate thoughtful discussion.
2. Clarifying ideas and information in the text.
3. Predicting what might follow, using prior knowledge and information in the text.
4. Summarising information in the text.

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## Peer tutoring

Peer tutoring is a form of cooperative learning where two students work together – a more skilled "tutor" with a less skilled "tutee".

### Benefits for students:

- ✓ more individual teaching
- ✓ gains in learning
- ✓ gains in social/relationship skills
- ✓ improved attitudes towards learning
- ✓ improved self-esteem .

### Benefits for tutors:

- ✓ practice/reinforcement of skills at earlier levels
- ✓ learning gains
- ✓ insight into the learning process
- ✓ development of social/relationship skills
- ✓ development of responsibility
- ✓ development of self-esteem.

### Benefits for teachers:

- ✓ more effective use of time
- ✓ greater coverage of individual needs
- ✓ opportunities to observe students at work, and to assess skills.

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## Useful resources



### An introduction to cooperative learning

This website provides information on how to set-up and implement cooperative learning groups

Publisher: The Education Hub

[Visit website](#)



### Reciprocal teaching

This resource provides step-by-step instructions for introducing reciprocal teaching with your students.

Publisher: Reading Rockets

[Visit website](#)



### Cooperative learning

This resource provides a range of group and team activities in which students have opportunities to work together to achieve shared learning goals.

Publisher: Social Sciences Online

[Visit website](#)

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