



**newnan presbyterian  
preschool and  
kindergarten**

38 Greenville St  
Newnan, GA 30263  
770-253-5018

## **Cooperative Learning And Your Child**

*“Education is not the filling  
of a pail, but the lighting  
of a fire.”*

*--William Butler Yeats*

## **What is Cooperative Learning?**

Cooperative Learning is a teaching strategy involving children’s participation in small group learning activities that promote positive interaction.

In the preschool and early elementary years, teachers work to help students move from being only aware of him/herself to becoming aware of other children. In a cooperative learning setting, students engage in structured learning activities where they have the opportunities to share ideas, learn how others think and react to problems, and practice oral language skills in small groups.

Research has shown that Cooperative Learning can promote positive feelings towards school, teachers, and peers; as well as boost learner confidence.



## **How does Cooperative Learning Work?**

Cooperative Learning provides teachers and students the opportunity to have an in-depth focus on a particular learning goal. Students may spend time enriching their understanding of letter/number concepts, phonemic awareness, science and social studies concepts, and more.

Walk into a classroom that is practicing Cooperative Learning and you will see students in small groups fully engaged in their activity. Listen and you will hear them sharing information about what they know and how they arrived to that point. Observe and you will find students helping others, full of self-pride.

The teacher can be found moving from group to group--facilitating rather than leading--giving assistance and encouragement when needed, while each student constructs their own learning in their own way.

## Pre-K/Kindergarten

We recognize that the majority of our oldest students will soon find themselves in a larger classroom/school setting. We feel very strongly in providing them with experiences that will prepare them for the years ahead.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten students will engage in Cooperative Learning segments one day a week. They will switch classes and participate in activities that reinforce and enrich the learning goals for their grade level.

30 minute segments will focus on letter and sound identification; counting and number recognition, as well as number sense, patterns, and math vocabulary (greater than/less than, etc.); and handwriting/sentence construction/sight word identification.

As our students' knowledge evolves, so will the content of our segments. There is no limit to how far our children can reach and we will modify our emphasis as needed. We can't wait to see how far they take us!

## 3's

Starting second semester, our 3's classes will also participate in Cooperative Learning.

One day a week, these young learners will engage in 15 minute intervals that focus on letter concepts, beginning math skills, and shapes/colors.



## 2's

The benefits of Cooperative Learning are so outstanding that we believe even our youngest students should be exposed to these benefits.

Our 2's students will receive an introduction to Cooperative Learning as they rotate through Spanish, Science, and Letters Alive.

## All Students

At NPPK, we understand you have entrusted us with your most precious gifts. We take great pride and responsibility in creating an environment where all students feel safe, loved, encouraged, and enriched. By incorporating Cooperative Learning strategies into our classrooms, we believe that we are building the foundation for confident, critical thinkers that show compassion and understanding towards others. We are honored to be a part of your child's education and we look forward to watching each student grow!

Our students are “Going Places...By Trading Spaces!”

### References

- Clare, J. (2015, March 3). The Difference in Cooperative Learning and Collaborative Learning. Posted to <http://www.teacherswithapps.com/thedifferences-in-cooperative-learning-collaborative-learning/>
- Lyman, L. & Harvey, C. F. (1988). “Cooperative Learning Strategies and Children” ERIC Digest.
- Rockwood, H. S. III (1995). “Cooperative and Collaborative Learning” The National Teaching & Learning Forum, 4 (6), 8-9.