EFFECTIVE GROUP MEMBERSHIP

What is described here is an activity that could be used in a teacher training workshop or for school-based teacher training. It could also be an activity that teachers themselves could use in their classrooms, with children aged eight and above, to promote effective group working.

On the next page is a worksheet that provides the basis of the activity.

After Step 1, if wished, the facilitator/teacher could conduct a plenary session to compare the rankings of different groups. Where and why do they differ? This could lead to some interesting discussion.

Suggested time allowance:

Step 1: 15 minutes

Step 2: 3 minutes

Step 3: 5 minutes

Step 4: 5 minutes

Step 5: 2 minutes

30 minutes total (plus any time allowed for plenary discussion after Step 1)

EFFECTIVE GROUP MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of ten attributes that an effective group member should have:

- Listens to what each group member has to say
- Encourages others to participate
- Respects the rules agreed in the group
- Solves conflicts in a group
- Is able to change roles during the work or interaction
- Finds new information for the group
- Shares actively her/his ideas
- Makes connections, conclusions by collecting ideas
- Accepts and openly faces differences among group members
- Takes the first step to get the work going forward

Task

Step 1: In your group, try to re-arrange these attributes in an agreed list of priority: with the most important attribute as number 1 and the least important attribute as number 10.

Step 2: As an individual task, evaluate your own behaviour as a group member. Write down your three strongest attributes? Write down your three weakest attributes.

Step 3: How would you evaluate your group members? Identify one strongest attribute and one weakest attribute for each group member.

Step 4: Share the assessments you made during Steps 2 and 3 with your group members. Do others agree with you about your own self-assessment? How did they assess you?

Step 5: Decide on one attribute that you will make a special effort to improve upon next time you work in a group.

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