

# Facilitating Creative Collaboration

Fostering curiosity and creativity in primary school classrooms is an important educational goal. These recommendations are developed based on an exploratory study aimed at showcasing the ways in which teachers are fostering these important skills.

## ARTICULATE PURPOSE AND INCITE CURIOSITY

- Clearly articulate the purpose and responsibilities of collaborative activities.
- Organise tasks to help children engage with this purpose, explore their own curiosity in the task and begin to develop their own ideas.

- Carefully select groups so that students learn to work with a diversity of collaborators, and experience multiple ways of working.
- Provide opportunities to give students agency over the diversity of self-formed groups, and how they work with them.

## ENCOURAGE WORKING IN DIVERSE GROUPS

## ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THE COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

- Emphasise that diverse ideas are important and that there are multiple ways to reach an intended goal: use this to introduce the importance of compromise and group decisions.

- Model and encourage flexible, reflective and responsive behaviour to show students ways to engage with the actions of others and adapt their behaviour and ideas accordingly.
- Provide students with time to reflect on and write about how well the collaboration went, as well as ways in which the collaboration can be improved.

## FACILITATE REFLECTION DURING AND AFTER COLLABORATION

THIS RESOURCE WAS CREATED AS PART OF THE PROMISING PRACTICES STUDY.

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/promising-practices-curiosity-and-creativity/> to learn more about other promising practices that teachers are using to foster curiosity and creativity. Given the exploratory nature of this study, additional research will be needed to confirm the effectiveness of these practices in fostering curiosity and creativity.