

BUILDING COMMUNITY

How can you create a learning environment where each child feels important, both as an individual and as part of the larger group? Here are songs and activities to foster mutual respect, cooperation, shared responsibility and other hallmarks of a supportive classroom community.

“Somos El Barco” (Spanish: “We Are the Boat”) *CD track 5*

“Courage” *CD track 6*

“All Work Together” *CD track 11*

“Walking on My Wheels” *CD track 15*

“You’ve Got to Be Carefully Taught” *CD track 19*



I WILL BE YOUR FRIEND

It Takes Cooperation

Have pairs of children collaborate on banners that feature proverbs about the benefit of working together. Encourage students to track down sayings about cooperation from various cultures. In addition to researching proverbs at the library and on the internet, students may want to contact various cultural organizations via e-mail or regular mail. Students can follow the directions below to make the banners.

Here are a few proverbs to get them started:

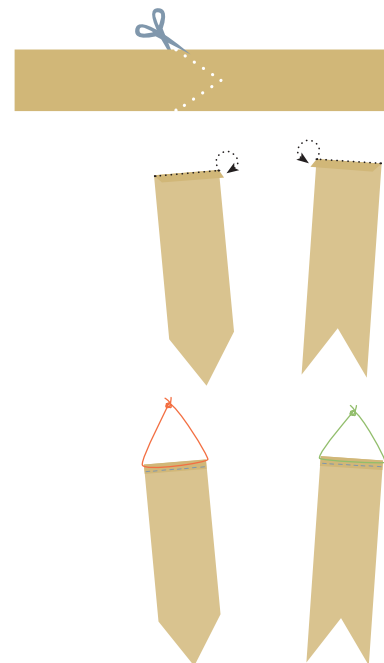
- When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion. (Ethiopia)
- A single bamboo pole does not make a raft. (China)
- One tree cannot make a forest. (Nigeria)

Materials

butcher paper, rulers, yarn or ribbon, scissors, glue or tape, stapler, art materials

Directions

1. Cut banner shapes from the paper, as shown. The banners should be approximately 1 foot wide by 3 feet long.
2. Fold over the top 2 inches of the banner to make a flap.
3. Cut a piece of yarn or ribbon that is roughly the same length as the banner.
4. Lay the yarn under the flap, as shown below, then staple the flap closed.
5. Tie the ends of the yarn together to make a knot.
6. Write your proverb on the front of the banner.
7. Use the art materials to decorate the banner. You may want to create a border pattern or add symbols or other images that reflect the cultural origins of the proverb.



Hang the banners around your classroom or school. The banners also make nice gifts to present to other classes.