

How to Use It

- Implement Cooperative activities early in the year to establish rapport among students.
- As you teach, assess your students' comfort, interest, and capacity to perform the activity and adjust accordingly. If an activity is too easy, jump to SPARK It Up extensions and add more difficulty. If it is too difficult, decrease the variables, simplify and slow down.
- Use music to start and stop activity and motivate students. However, if an activity prompts verbal communication and/or problem solving, keep the volume low or turn it off.
- Implement the *Cooperatives SPARK Event* during the last days of the unit and provide an exciting culminating experience that will showcase skills and knowledge learned. Use the SPARK Event as a foundation for teacher and student creativity and expand the idea to make it relevant to your students, school, and community.
- Generate interest for the *SPARK Event* with a bulletin board focusing on unit content and the SPARK Event theme. SPARK Event bulletin board plans and supplemental resources can be found at *SPARKfamily.org*.
- Use the Integrations as background information during a lesson introduction or closure. Another option is to print all the unit Integrations from *SPARKfamily.org* and staple the entire set to a bulletin board in the sequenced order. Pull off the top Integration before the start of each new lesson.
- Review the assessment samples provided on *SPARKfamily.org*.
 - The *Cooperatives Self-Check* is a student-paced assessment that can be used throughout the entire unit.
 - *Cooperatives Performance Rubrics* are observational assessments used to collect skill development data.
 - *Cooperatives Peer Coaching Task Cards* guide students in offering feedback to their partners for proper performance. Students take turns being the coach and the performer.
 - *The Cooperatives Unit Test* provides students a chance to show off their new knowledge through a short, written test given at the end of the unit.
 - *Cooperatives Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda* scenarios allow students to reflect and respond to situations they are often faced with during physical education/physical activity settings. These make excellent homework assignments and topics to discuss with a partner or in small groups.
- Follow the sample *Cooperatives Unit Plan* (*SPARKfamily.org*), or use it as a guide to adjust and create your own unit plans which meet your particular instructional requirements.

Safety

- Be sure the surface of the activity area is smooth, dry and free of unnecessary equipment.
- Use activity areas with plenty of room for students to move safely.
- Encourage cooperation and communication for group success and safety.
- Make sure it is a "psychologically" safe environment.
- Prevent bullying and be sure all students are accepted into their groups.

Limited Equipment/Large Class Ideas

Cooperative activities tend to work well with large classes because very little equipment is needed. When you have more than 30 students participating in "whole class" activities, try dividing the classes into 2 smaller groups.