

Habit #6: Synergize

Day 1:

Materials: white/construction paper with large letters spelling “synergize,” crayons

- Split students up into 9 groups and give each group a letter to the word Synergize
- Ask students to decorate the letter however they wish
- Then when finished have volunteers discuss what they did in their groups
 - How did you decide how you were going to decorate your letter?
 - Did you have to work together?
- Then have one person from each group bring up their letter and show them that the letters they colored make the word synergize.
- Synergize means work together.
 - Would we have been able to spell this word correctly if everyone did not participate?

Day 2:

Materials: sentence strips (one that starts with the story starter, then 5 more that start with the words: then, after that, suddenly, next, finally), markers, tape, chart paper to tape the sentence strips to for the final story

- Students will be split into 6 groups and each will write a sentence to complete a story
- Read the story starter to the whole group and give that sentence strip to a group to complete
- Give time for each group to complete their sentence
- Then have one student from each group bring up their sentence and put it in the correct spot in the story
- Read the story to the entire group
 - We synergized a story!
 - Did you know how it was going to turn out?
 - Together is better!

Day 3:

Materials: one teacher bag with 4 random items to model, then 3 student bags for each class in the family

Suggestions for bags: **Bag 1 (model bag):** doctor's kit, paper plate, water bottle, tape dispenser

Pretend to collaborate as a group to model how to work together. When you present have one person fall and get hurt, one person can be the friend who calls 911, and the other 2 can be the paramedics, when the paramedics arrive they find a conscious, dehydrated person and they give them water, and they have also broken their arm (they fell because they fainted from being dehydrated) so the paramedics rip the paper plate in half and make a cast and tape it onto each side of the broken arm, then put her in the ambulance and drive away

Bag 2: spatula, stuffed animal, car keys, shoes

Bag 3: eraser, chap-stick, old cell phone, magnifying glass

Bag 4: play camera, wig, silly glasses, scarf

- On the first day model how to take to collaborate in a group and take the items from the bag to form a play using ALL of the items.
- Give each classroom teacher a bag of (at least 4) items and on the next leader in me day have each class show what they decided to do with the items in their bag
- Ask students what habits they had to use in order to put on a good play
 - Make sure to mention habit 6 and habit 2 (begin with the end in mind)

Day 4:

Materials: Chart paper with the poem *Bugs! Bugs!* already written on it. The word "Bugs" is already covered up everywhere it appears in the poem. Introduce the poem and the concept of "Mystery Word"!

- Talk about how we might be able to figure out what the mystery word is through the use of the describing words in the poem. The describing words will be called clues within the lesson.
- Read through the poem and stop to point out and discuss some of the "clues."
- Break students into groups by using the colored paper.
- Instruct students to use Synergy with their group as they pass the lotus and record words that could be the mystery word.
- Come back together and let each group share one of their words that will be placed on the class lotus.
- Read through the poem and substitute some of the group's ideas. ENJOY THIS!
- Finally, reveal the mystery word, BUGS!

Bugs! Bugs!

Bugs! Bugs!

I love bugs, yes I truly do, great big pink ones, little green stink ones, yellow bugs and blue.

I put you in my pockets, and I wear you in my hair.

You are my close companions, I take you everywhere.

Bugs! Bugs!

I love bugs, any shape or size, thin ones, fat ones, long ones, flat ones, bugs with bulging eyes.

I hug you and kiss you and I bounce you on my knee.

No matter what I'm doing, my bugs are close to me.

Bugs! Bugs!

I love bugs, bugs you are my friends, square ones, round ones, half a pound ones, bugs with big rear ends.

I love to watch you scamper, and I love to watch you chew.

I've no doubt about it-- bugs, I'm bugs for you!

Jack Prelutsky