

Tips for Joint Productive Activity (JPA)

1. Choose a joint product for you and a small group of children to do together. The product can be something concrete like making a chart together or cooking. JPA can also be working on something conceptual together, like exploring what causes ice to melt.
 - a. Concrete: “Today we will work together and make a Venn Diagram comparing how squares and cubes are the same and different.”
 - b. Conceptual: “Have you ever wondered how to make a rainbow? Let’s work together to see if we could figure it out.”

2. Explain why you are doing the activity together.
 - a. “It is important to know how to do this because…”
 - b. “Yesterday, Elly asked what makes rainbows, so today we’re going to try to figure it out.”

3. Assist the collaboration.* Join in on the activity with the children. Model ways to talk and work together. Talk about your thinking. Ask questions and make suggestions on how to collaborate. Listen and respond to children’s ideas.
 - a. “Malia said a cube ‘sticks out’ and a square does not, do you agree with her?”
 - b. “Does anyone have an idea on how to make a rainbow? Let’s listen to each other’s ideas and try some out!”

4. End the activity by briefly reflecting on how the activity went.
 - a. “So, we came up with several ways cubes and squares are the same and different. Did everyone get a chance to share their thinking? Does everyone agree with our diagram?”
 - b. “Look at what we made together! I liked how everyone in the group was actively listening. Malia gave Elly good feedback about her observation.”

* Assisting collaboration is a key component of JPA.