Many educational experts recognize that collaboration is a critical skill for students' current and future success. Yet, collaboration isn’t necessarily a natural skill. Students need to learn how to work with others. And they need to learn these skills when it asks educators about instilling collaboration into their practices.

**Why Teach Collaboration**

Collaboration is a skill that can be taught and developed. It is important for students to learn how to work together effectively. Collaboration can help students develop important skills such as communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. It also promotes a sense of community and teamwork. However, collaboration can be challenging. Teachers need to create an environment where students feel comfortable sharing their ideas and working together.

**Common Ways of Collaboration**

There are many ways to promote collaboration in the classroom. Some effective strategies include:

1. **Group Work:** Students can work together on projects or assignments. This allows them to share ideas and learn from each other.
2. **Pair Work:** Students work in pairs to solve problems or complete tasks. This can help them develop stronger communication skills.
3. **Class Discussions:** Engaging students in discussions can help them learn from each other and express their ideas. It also promotes critical thinking.

**Collaborative Tools in Use**

- Microsoft Office 365 Education/Google G Suite for Education
- Microsoft OneNote
- Google Drive
- Classroom management software
- Video-conferencing tools
- Wikis

**Collaborative Spaces in Use**

- Learning commons
- Zones of interaction in classrooms
- In media centers/libraries
- Collaborative desk groupings or tables in classrooms
- Dedicated collaboration software
- Video-conferencing
- Wikis

**Complications in Collaboration**

- Time management
- Communication
- Budget constraints
- Infrastructure

**Cool Collaboration Ideas**

- Use technology to facilitate collaboration, such as cloud-based tools and virtual meeting platforms.
- Organize student-led teams or work groups to promote leadership and accountability.
- Create a collaborative culture by modeling collaborative behaviors as a teacher.

**Where Schools Are in This Process**

- Classroom settings
- Learning commons
- Zones of interaction
- In media centers/libraries

**Student Collaboration in Action**

**Favorite Techniques**

1. **Jigsaw:** Shuffling kids around
2. **Brainstorming:** Engaging in open-ended discussions
3. **Assigning roles:** Students take on different roles during a project

**Assessing Collaborative Learning**

- Reflection: Encouraging students to reflect on their experiences and learn from them.
- Group grading: Allowing students to grade each other to promote accountability and discussion.

**Collaboration Gear**

- **Tools in Use:**
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- **Spaces in Use:**
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**What Would Help?**

- Administrative support
- Development of student skills
- Budget allocation
- Models and resources

**For More Information:**

- [Visit the source website](https://www.dell.com/education) for additional resources and information on promoting collaboration in the classroom.