

Let's have a conversation!

Monthly dialogue with parents of Bal Bharatians on student-centric issues



Bal Bharati PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

Every month, we seek views, ideas and suggestions from you, on various topics that are important for the progress and well-being of your child. Parents' inputs are invaluable in helping us shape the school's policies and practices to better serve the needs of our students.

Here we are featuring some of the thought-provoking responses to the topic of the month.

TOPIC

How can we promote teamwork and collaboration among our students, and what are some benefits of these skills for their future success?



As a parent, I strongly believe that promoting teamwork and collaboration among students is crucial for their holistic development and future success. One effective approach is to incorporate group projects and interactive activities into the curriculum, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and mutual respect among peers. Encouraging open communication and active listening within teams helps students appreciate diverse perspectives and find common ground to achieve shared goals. It is imperative that the school creates a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where every voice is valued thereby cultivating a culture of collaboration.

These skills are indispensable for success in various aspects of life. First, teamwork enhances problem-solving abilities, as students learn to leverage each others' strengths and brainstorm innovative solutions. Second, collaboration fosters creativity by allowing individuals to bounce ideas off one another and build on them collectively. Moreover, working in teams hones interpersonal skills such as negotiation, conflict resolution and leadership, all of which are highly sought after in the professional world. In a nutshell, fostering teamwork and collaboration equips students with the essential tools to thrive in their academic pursuits, careers, and personal relationships.



Deepak Gautam, Father of Suryaveer, Class II, BBPS Dwarka



Teamwork and cooperation skills are essential for the overall growth and development of young minds, and Bal Bharati Public School teachers promote these skills among kids. They provide plenty of opportunities, partner activities, and group projects like team sports, story dramatisation, sharing, caring, and more, all of which fosters collaboration skills in kids. The school promotes a sense of belonging in children towards their classmates, ensures effective communication and constructive feedback, and emphasises development of essential skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, empathy and active listening. This approach has contributed to making my child a successful, cooperative, and reliable team player.

Tanupriya Sapra, Mother of Krishiv, Class PP, BBPS Gangaram

Teamwork is very important for the development of children. Learning to work as part of a team will help them to learn many social skills, develop confidence in themselves and trust in other people. In Ramayana, when Lord Ram is searching for Sita, he meets Sugreeva, who forms search teams of monkeys with effective leaders and sends them in different directions. This is the first example of teamwork which comes to mind. There are many stories in ancient Indian mythology and history that can be taught to school children to inspire them about the power of teamwork. Activities can be designed for both inside and outside the classroom, to help children develop a collaborative mindset:

- Team sports
- Problem solving tasks
- Group projects
- Musical band
- Organising a play
- Camping
- Student council



Shipra Yadav, Mother of Akshat, Class VI, BBPS Khargone

Teamwork should be fostered among learners, with teachers as facilitators who can empower them to learn from practical experiences. Working in teams gives students the opportunity to work with and learn from peers. Collaborative exercises can be in the form of role plays, skits, or making online presentations using suitable applications and digital tools. Engaging students in project-based learning, with the objective of deriving hands-on experience and practical know-how, facilitates the development of skills related to problem solving, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and team building. This, in turn, promotes fruitful and unbiased exchange of opinions, and builds conceptual clarity. Such a conducive environment ensures effective development even of those students who do not open up easily and need continuous encouragement. Hence, teamwork and collaborative learning encompasses a holistic approach towards developing future-ready citizens, brimming with confidence.



Gopal Palkar, Father of Vedant, Class IX, BBPS Ratnagiri

Some suggestions to encourage teamwork:

1. Forming groups to discuss a given topic is a great way to share thoughts and also hear others' views. Researching the topic can help all the members to increase their knowledge and learn how to win as a team.
2. Working in groups to design a model or an app, and demonstrating the same, can teach a lot about collaboration.
3. Creating a group of students and collecting a small amount like Rs. 10/- from each group member. With the collected money, the group can buy ingredients required to create some handmade products, which can be sold in the school fete. This will be a great lesson in bargaining, negotiation, salesmanship, and cultivating an entrepreneurial attitude. It will also help the group members appreciate that things don't come easy.



Debashree Chanda Roy, Mother of Arunava, Class V, BBPS Manesar



As a mentor or guide or teacher, one must knit the group task effectively so that the students can trust each other and interact with others in a confident manner. Teachers can also help students in making friends to promote team spirit among them.

There are many ways to promote teamwork. First, there should be team-based games. Second, teachers should create a positive environment in the class, so that students can ask questions without any hesitation and interact with each other. Third, students should be given an opportunity to go on short trips, which will bring them together and build trust. Fourth, teachers should ensure that students value each others' talents and achievements, as this will create an appreciative culture and make them self-confident. Finally, teachers should be part of the team too, so that students can learn from them freely, without any classroom anxiety.

Indu Tayal, Mother of Vivaan, Class I, BBPS Rohini

To build teamwork, we should begin by defining roles, responsibilities, and goals for team activities. Clarity helps students in understanding their tasks, and how they can contribute to the group's success. Students should be engaged with tasks that have practical applications, thus enhancing their problem solving skills and making the learning experience more relevant. Students should assess their own contributions and learn how their strengths can best serve the team. Activities like science experiments and group challenges can strengthen the bond between students and improve their ability to work together.

By honing their collaboration skills, students can learn to express their ideas clearly, while also listening to others. Most careers require teamwork, and it helps to prepare students for the collaborative nature of modern work environments. Working in teams helps students build social skills that are important for personal relationships and professional networking. By integrating these strategies and highlighting the benefits, educators can create a learning environment that not only enhances academic performance but also prepares students for success beyond the classroom.



Deepika Chauhan, Mother of Aadhya, Class III, BBPS Solan



In the epic movie 'Avengers', superheroes with unique abilities come together to save the world, showcasing the power of teamwork. Despite individual strengths and weaknesses, they join forces, showcasing the value of collective effort. Captain America is the strategic leader, Iron Man is the technological genius, Thor has God-like superpowers, Hulk possesses raw strength, Spider Man has his own special abilities, Black Widow is a skilled spy and Hawkeye is an expert marksman. They know that their collective strength is unmatched, making them invincible.

Similarly, students should recognise the strengths and weaknesses within themselves and their peers, fostering collaboration towards common goals. Team success goes beyond personal glory – in 'Team', there is no 'I' or 'You'. Trust in teammates, gained through shared experiences, is essential for success. Collaborative efforts push individuals out of comfort zones, revealing hidden qualities and fostering lifelong bonds. Sacrifices, whether of time or personal gains, solidify the camaraderie necessary for achieving collective objectives. In reality, success flourishes through effective teamwork, bringing to life the Avengers' lesson of unity for triumph.

Meena Arora, Mother of Ridhima Rai, Class VII, BBPS Brij Vihar

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT MONTH

Which digital literacy skills are most important for students, and how can we support them in building these skills?

Share with us your frank views about the topic. There is no correct or incorrect answer. All responses will help us in making the journey of our students more productive and joyful.