



GR_Class_ShapeTrees_GWork

Teacher Education Design Principle + code:	15. Teacher education should promote teachers' use of group work to support children's inquiry processes and creative learning.
Specific Teacher Outcome(s):	15.1 Teachers should have knowledge of the value of collaboration for inquiry and creative thinking and learning. 15.5 Teachers should be able to assess group work. 15.6 Teachers should be able to use effective strategies for sharing ideas and discussions from different groups.
Factors linked with:	P: Ques; P: Scaff; P: R and R
Type of material (image – interview (int) – classroom extract (class):	Classroom
Originating from:	
Country report :	D4.3 Greece
Case:	Case 1
Episode:	1 – Shape trees
Teacher:	Mina
Age Group:	5-6
Selected episode present in D4.4 Appendix	No





Assessing both cognitive and affective dimensions of learning in a collaborative learning activity

This preschool lesson involved children playing with geometrical shapes. Children had to gather objects from the classroom ('The shape hunt'), discuss their shape with the teacher, comment on specific shapes' mathematical properties and finally make 'shape trees' using paper and a variety of other material.

The lesson started as children seemed very excited from the beginning when Mina let them know they would be working in groups and playing with shapes and objects. After splitting up the 4 teams Mina told the children: *'I will tell you what I would like from you and you can then go about it your own way. Do whatever you want.'* Each team was assigned a colour and the only instruction provided by Mina was for children to find objects that are the same colour as their team's and bring them back to her. The children were given 3 minutes to do so and at the end a variety of shapes was brought back to the tables. Mina asked the children to share their findings with the rest of their classmates.

After the 4 presentations were done, Mina started a discussion about the nature of the activities that proceeded, mostly trying to bring out what the children felt about working in groups and collaborating.

Mina: Take a look around to see your friends' work and compare it to your team's work. How did you feel working within the team? What did you like? What didn't you like? What made you feel happy? I want you to think for a bit.

Children said that they enjoyed making the shape trees together. F said that he enjoyed working with shapes, measuring the rectangles to cut and glue them to the trees. Measuring shapes was what L mentioned as particularly enjoyable, while Li said that she enjoyed seeing what the other teams had done, especially the team working the triangles. Mina, after allowing every child to assess the day's activities, concluded the lesson by letting the children know what she felt about their work.

Mina: Let me tell you what I really liked. The way you worked together, collaborated. You worked very well as a team and any disagreements and conflicts were kept to a minimum. You did everything very well and managed to complete all your tasks within the time provided. Let's give ourselves a big round of applause. Well done, you were great!



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The project CREATIVE LITTLE SCIENTISTS has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 289081.