

# TRIADS

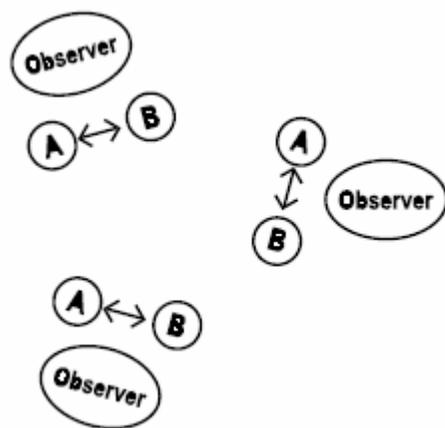
Many students and adults can initially find it difficult to work within a team of three members. A number of disadvantages can quickly arise, including:

1. Two of the team members may align themselves against the third;
2. Individual students may see this activity as an opportunity for a rest, and let the other two do all of the work.

However, mastery of the Triad strategy generally eliminates these difficulties, and can contribute to an excellent grasp of co-operative learning in a classroom.

To introduce the Triads:

1. Divide into teams of three members.
2. Appoint one team member as the 'observer'. This person will take no active part in the designated activity.



3. Outline a specific task for the remaining two members, such as, to develop a plan for organising the school dance.

4. While the two members work on the plan, the observer monitors their interactions.

5. When the task is finished, the observer provides feedback to the two team members. Only positive feedback should be offered.

Triads can serve as an excellent introduction to the observer role. Team positions later can be rotated, so that all three students eventually can take part as the observer.

## Variation

The two interacting team members could also be encouraged to reflect on their own efforts. A brief checklist (Diagram 5) can be provided by the teacher for this purpose. It is worthwhile negotiating the checklist points with the children before the activity. The illustration offers a possible set of reflective points.



# TRIADS OBSERVER



NAME:	DATE:
TOPIC:	PURPOSE:

CHECKLIST: WHAT DID THEY DO?	WHAT WORKED WELL? WHAT DID THEY DO WELL? WHAT ELSE CAN YOU OFFER?
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

# TRIADS PAIR



NAME:	DATE:
TOPIC:	PURPOSE:

CHECKLIST: WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO DO?	WHAT WORKED WELL? WHAT DID YOU DO WELL? WHAT ELSE CAN YOU OFFER?
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	