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Group Books

Group books are used regularly by groups of three to four students to:

- use as a reference tool created by students to access information they currently learning in all areas of study.
- naturally and purposefully work in a cooperative manner.
- use as a transition upon finishing an assignment.

Each grouping of students in the class (3 to 4 is most effective) would have a group book on their table, or desks that are positioned together. The book is a bound book such as a composition book or stapled book (construction paper cover with blank or lined paper). Spiral notebooks will often rip out of the binding creating lost papers and missing information to access. Entries can include:

- categories of words (e.g. words with patterns - tion, oi, etc.)
- categorization of words and ideas (e.g. animals, colors, etc.)
- groupings of words currently being studied (e.g. land forms, street signs, people in the class, etc.)
- students solving problems (e.g. how do you stop a dog and a cat from fighting, how do you equip a space ship, etc.)
- math patterns
- classroom observations
- Thinking Maps

For more information on collaborative learning the following books could be of interest:

No Contest & No Rewards

Alfie Kohn - Amazing books on the case against competition and rewards. A must read for education. Houghton Mifflin.

Teaching With the Brain in Mind

Eric Jensen – Practical, easy-to-understand research on learning and the brain. ASCD, www.ascd.org.

