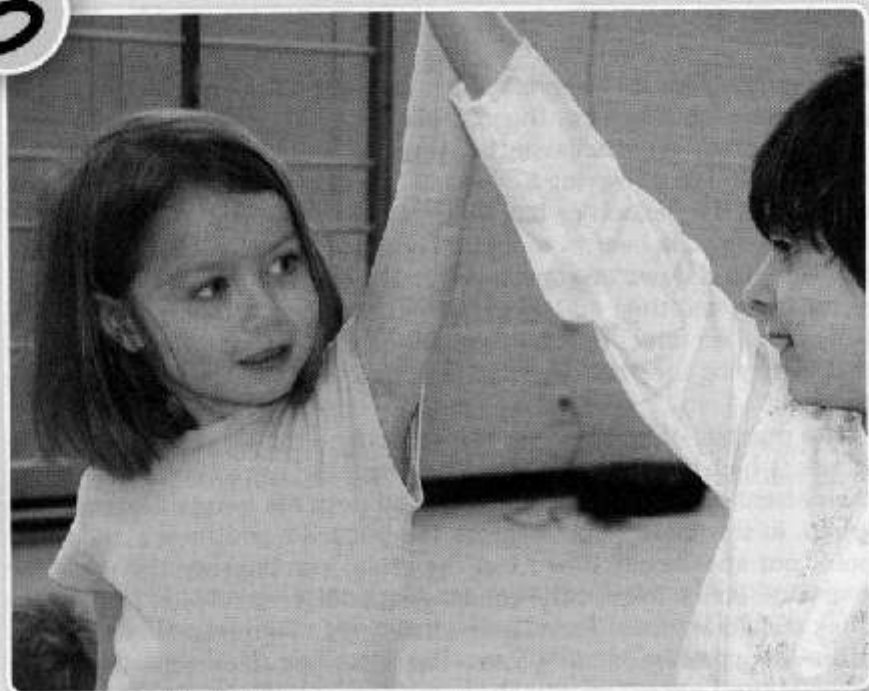


Who Needs Cooperative Games?

Have you ever seen the fun torn from a child in a game? Have you ever seen children left out, put down, rejected, or intentionally hurt in games? Have you ever thought that there must be a better way? Then the games in this book are for you! They have grown out of these concerns and provide a positive alternative. What's so different about these games? They are games of acceptance, cooperation, and joy that can bring children, families, and communities together in the spirit of cooperative play. They have been carefully created, selected, and refined so that children have fun while learning positive things about themselves, about others, and about how we should be in the world.

The main advantages of cooperative games are that everybody cooperates . . . everybody wins . . . and everybody has fun. Children play with one another rather than against one another. These games eliminate the fear and feeling of failure. They nurture and reaffirm a child's confidence



A New Beginning: Turning Ideas Into Positive Action

For most of my life, I have worked with high-level performers pursuing personal excellence in many different domains; at the same time, I have worked closely with children to teach them skills for cooperation and positive living to enhance the overall quality of their lives. Some people have asked me, "How can you work with high-level performers on pursuing excellence and at the same time work with children on cooperation and positive interaction? Isn't there a conflict there?" I have never experienced a conflict in pursuing these two important paths at the same time.

Excellence is extremely important in our world—in parenting, teaching, working, consulting, and performing in every human endeavor—and becoming excellent is largely a cooperative venture. You can't do it totally

on your own. Cooperation and collaboration play a big part in nurturing successful relationships and enhancing performance in all areas of life.