

Name: _____

Group Guide

Directions: Use this reproducible to help you organize the details of your group assignment. As you use the resources to complete the tasks, put a check mark in the appropriate box beside the Assignment Task or Assignment Resource.

Who is in my group?

What are we doing?
Assignment Tasks:

How will we do this?
Assignment Resources:

Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™ Kit

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- *Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™*, with magnetic strip
- 32 *Student Name Sticks*, Write Again® wipe-off laminate
- 6 *Group-Direction Cards*, Write Again® wipe-off laminate
- 6 *File-Folder Pocket Label Cards*, Write Again® wipe-off laminate
- This Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™ Kit**—a convenient tool for forming and re-forming student groups and small group assignments.

Cleaning and Storing the *Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™ Kit*

Keep your *Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™* in good condition by wiping it occasionally with a damp cloth. Fold the *Pocket Chart* horizontally along the stitching lines for easy storage.

Preparing and Displaying the *Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™ Kit*

Before introducing the **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™ Kit**, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Instructional Guide, and file the pages for future use. Or, download another copy of it from our website at www.reallygoodstuff.com. Always use dry erase markers on the *Group-Direction Cards*, *File-Folder Pocket Label Cards*, and *Student Name Sticks* in order to preserve their Write Again® wipe-off laminate surfaces. Write students' names on the *Student Name Sticks*. Hang the *Pocket Chart* where students will be able to see and interact with it easily.

Introducing the *Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™ Kit*

Discuss what it means to work in a group. Consider student responses; and, if necessary, lead them to realize that working in a group means that they work together to complete a task or reach a goal. Explain to students that they will be placed in different groups with their classmates throughout the school year to complete a variety of assignments.

Direct students' attention to the **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™**, and tell them that the *Pocket Chart* is their how-to guide for group work in your classroom. Introduce each component of the *Pocket Chart*, and explain its function. Demonstrate to students that they can find the names of their group members on the *Student Name Sticks*, the task assigned to their group on the *Group-Direction Cards*, and the resources for helping them complete the task in the *File-Folder Pocket*. Point out the color coding on the *Group-Direction Cards* and the *File-Folder Pocket Label Cards*.

Gold-Star Groups Behavior

When introducing the group-work concept to students, include a class discussion on what behaviors are beneficial or detrimental: Ask students what qualities they would like to see in members of their groups (*I would like my group members to be team players. Every member needs to do his or her best to accomplish the group's goal.*) Allow students time to share their ideas, and guide them to reflect and summarize, as needed. List positive group behaviors on an anchor chart where students can easily refer to the list, such as: *being a good listener; remaining flexible and open to new ideas; offering positive, constructive feedback; and being friendly.*

"Stick"-y Group Assignments

Alternate your grouping strategies throughout the year to complement each assignment and to keep students interested in the group-forming process. For example, when forming groups based on diversified interests and abilities or classroom management strategies, consider grouping and placing *Student Name Sticks* in the **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™** in advance of sharing the group member names with students. Or, for truly random groups, place the *Student Name Sticks* in a jar or container with only the tops of the *Sticks* visible. Tell students that they will be helping you form groups: Instruct each student to pick one *Student Name Stick*, and place it in a *Name Stick* pocket, filling the *Pocket Chart* from top to bottom and left to right.

Group Guide

Copy and distribute the *Group Guide Reproducible*. Explain to students that they are to use the reproducible to help them record pertinent information while working in groups. Review each section of the reproducible, and discuss sample content for each section. Demonstrate how the requested information on the reproducible aligns with the featured information on the **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™**.

Divide and Conquer Tasks

Use the **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™** to assign groups for classroom jobs and duty assignments. For example: the Blue Group might be in charge of chalkboard and eraser maintenance, and the Yellow Group may be responsible for keeping the classroom library orderly.

Consider This Group Debate

Use the **Small Groups Management Pocket Chart™** as a tool for examining different viewpoints on a singular issue. Be sure that each group folder includes a common article or summary of a particular issue so that all groups have a shared topic to explore. Among the folder activities, include articles or activities offering differing viewpoints or opinions on the common topic. After groups have completed their folder activities and examined one viewpoint, allow groups to present their varied viewpoints to the class.

All instructional guides can be found online.