



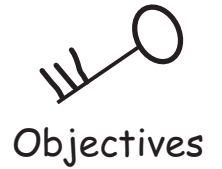
ARKS KEYS TO PARTICIPATION

WORKING TOGETHER

WORKING WITH OTHERS OR WORKING ALONE?

In this section you will think about:

- why you prefer to do some activities alone
- the advantages and disadvantages of working as part of a team
- how you decide when to work alone or to participate with others



Think about some activities you are involved in, either at work or at home, e.g., planning schedules, negotiating working conditions, training a community football team, decorating, childcare, etc. In the table on the following page list some of the tasks you have to do regularly and say whether you prefer to do them alone or with the help of others. In the third column say why you prefer to work this way. There are two examples to get you started.



Activity 1

Task	By myself/ in a group	Why?
re-decorating your living room	with other family members	you all use the room and want everyone to be happy with the end result
produce a winter play at your child's nursery	with other people	Organising young children and putting on a play requires a lot of work and you need a good team to take on all the different tasks

Activity 2

Look at the list of activities in the table below. Which ones would you like to do on your own and which would you rather do working alongside others? Say why you would prefer to do it this way.



Activity	By myself/ with others	Why?
deliver leaflets in your area		
wash the coffee cups at work		
make a community garden		
protest against people wearing fur coats		
organise a football match		
make a database on your computer		
go to a football match		
organise a fundraising event		
write a letter of complaint		
paint a picture or make a model		
write a report at work or at college		



Activity
continued

Activity 2 continued

Why do you think that some activities are more suited to working alone while others are better done in a group? If you can, discuss this with some colleagues and write your ideas here:



Discussion

Does everybody in your group agree about which tasks they prefer to do alone and which ones they prefer help with?

Here are some reasons people give for **working alone**:

- free to make all the decisions
- can be creative
- can work to your own timescale
- can take all the credit
- can use your own methods
- no disagreements

Here are some reasons people give for **working with others**:

- can spread the workload
- share ideas and talents
- share responsibility
- able to do something bigger and better
- a more sociable way to work



Activity 3

Lisa thinks that there should be a pedestrian crossing on a busy street near where she lives, to make it easier for children and elderly people to cross. What difference would it make if:

- (a) she wrote to the council herself to ask them to put in a new crossing?
- (b) she organised a meeting of local residents to write a letter together?

Which letter do you think would be easier to write? Why?

Which letter do you think would have more impact with the council? Why?

Activity 4

If you are doing these activities with other people, divide your group in two. One half of the group has to work together as a team, whilst the rest of the group have to work on their own. Complete **one** of the following tasks:

- (a) design an advertising poster for your organisation
- (b) reorganise the cupboards or storage shelves in the room where you are working
- (c) write a letter to a television company complaining about something you saw on television last night

Compare your results. Did people get on better working as a group or working on their own?

What do you think are the benefits of working on your own?



Activity



Activity
continued

Activity 4 continued

What are the advantages of working with others?

Whether you work alone or with others will usually depend upon:

- your own personal working style
- the task you are trying to complete

Activity 5

Think of something you have to work on at the moment and try weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of working on your own or asking others to join in.

Which way of working would suit you best? Why?

Which way of working would be best for the task you are trying to complete? Why?



Don't be afraid of trying different methods of working and see how you get on.

