



## Habit Six: Synergize

Synergize is when two or more people work together to create a better solution than either person would have thought of alone. It's not your way or my way, but a better way. Synergizing is practicing team work. Synergy is taking good ideas and making them better by working together. Did you know that even geese practice synergy? When a flock of geese heads south for the winter, they fly in a V formation because the entire flock can fly farther this way than if each bird flew alone.

Activities to Try at Home:

1. With your children, choose a problem you may have (getting chores done, doing homework, etc.). Use the Synergy Action Plan to summarize your child's solution and your solution. 1. Define the problem. 2. Share your views. 3. Think of solutions. 4. Choose the best solution together. See if you can reach a better solution than either of you would have come up with alone.
2. Try a 15-minute program, where everyone stops what they are doing and pitches in as a team to put the laundry away, pull weeds in the garden, wash the dishes, etc. Designating a small block of time where everyone helps makes the work go quicker.
3. Check out some of the following picture books at the library to use as a springboard for discussion about "synergizing."
  - a. *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall—Ox Cart Man is the story of how one family used synergy to survive in the early 1800s.
  - b. *Clifford's Spring Clean Up* by Norman Bridwell—Clifford and Emily Elizabeth use synergy to clean the house and yard in order for preparation for Earth Day. Clifford takes a leadership role by shaking out rugs and digging up weeds.
  - c. *How the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Got \$8205.50 to Visit the Statue of Liberty* by Nathan Zimelman—The children in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class have lots of ideas and energy for how to make enough money to visit the Statue of Liberty. They take on leadership roles by synergizing on collaborative projects, earning plenty of money to cover their trip.
  - d. *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry—Everyone's ideas come together to think of ways to keep the rainforest healthy.

