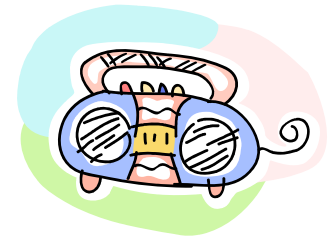# Music-Mix-Math

Cooperative Problem Solving

This activity allows students to work cooperatively with their classmates to solve math word problems. Students mix around the room as music is played. When the music stops, students solve problems with a partner.

Materials Needed:
- Kid-friendly music
- One word problem worksheet for each student

Directions:

1. Give each student an identical problem-solving worksheet with 3 or 4 problems. The **Daily Math Puzzler** activity pages work well for this. (Download samples from www.lauracandler.com)

2. Before starting, ask everyone to read the first problem and think about how they would solve it. However, they should NOT write anything on their pages at this point.

3. Begin playing the music, and have students move quietly around the room mingling with their classmates. They need to bring their worksheets and pencils with them. (Download kid-friendly music from www.freekidsmusic.com)

4. Stop the music and ask students to find a partner. Make sure everyone is paired up before giving the next direction. If you have an odd number of students, you can be someone's partner.

5. Ask students to discuss the first problem with their partner, decide how to solve it, and each write the solution on their own papers. They must show their work, which could include drawings, charts, or number sentences. Students who finish early may discuss the next problem but may not write anything on their papers.

6. Begin playing the music when most students are finished with Problem #1. When you stop the music this time, they need to find a different partner.

7. When everyone has a partner, ask them to compare their answers for Problem #1 before moving on to Problem #2. If their answers for Problem #1 are not correct, they should quickly discuss that one before solving the next problem. You'll need to monitor this step to make sure they don't spend too much time on Problem #1.

8. Repeat steps 3 through 7 until all the word problems are completed.

9. At the end of the activity, collect the papers to check for accuracy, or review the answers together as a class.