

# Team work makes the dream Work



I feel it is one of the best ways to introduce student teachers into the profession.

## My experience

Team teaching has been a new experience for me this year. I co-teach a leaving certificate music class twice a week and I co-teach voluntarily in the autistic unit in my school.

For the music class I took one extremely weak student and worked on basic theory for three weeks. For the next few weeks I played the minor role of helping the students who needed help. Co-teaching the unit is very rewarding and is more enjoyable than teaching on your own.

### Co-operative music teacher -

"I was grateful you suggested it. It took some pressure off me in the classroom."

"I was afraid I wasn't getting enough time to help the ordinary level. Everyone benefits and it just worked for us"

## What I have learned

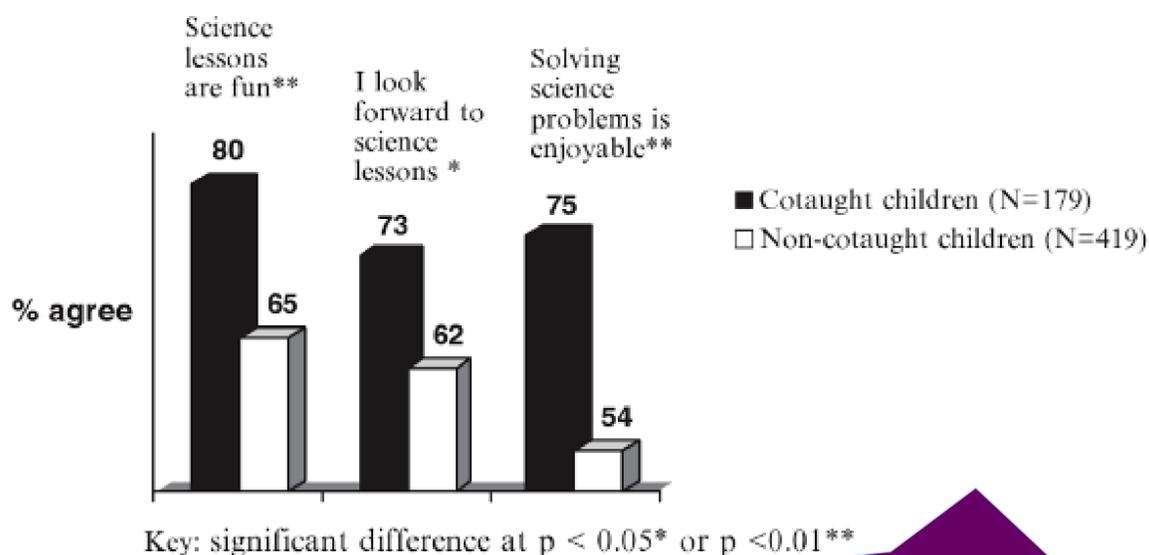
### What worked

Fortunately, I had a great relationship with my colleagues. From the start we knew our roles within the classroom and respected this. We prepared the classes weeks in advance and this gave us the confidence to make the most of this experience. I felt I learned so much from the other teachers (from general knowledge of the subject to different pedagogic strategies). Most importantly the students had the opportunity to be taught in an intense, individualized manner.

### Challenges

It took a lot of time to prepare. I am grateful I had a good relationship with my colleagues previous to this or the atmosphere could have been jeopardized. I feel teaching is a personal job and could just as easy have fallen apart.

Murphy, C., et al (2010) discuss having students are the co-teacher too. Our most valuable resources! This always draws on Dewey's experiential learning concept.



### Co-operative teacher in the unit -

"It's fun because it's different. The kids look forward to you coming in for a change"

Both observation and research suggests it engages students



as coteacher