

Developing Communication Skills: Classroom Lesson Plan

Lesson Topic:

The Importance of Good Communication Skills

Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to explain the importance of developing good communication skills.

Materials:

- Blank paper (optional)
- Writing utensils (optional)
- Projector or other method to watch the movie

Advanced Preparation:

- [Preview the video](#) before sharing it with your students [2:43].

Warm-up Activity:

1. Talk together about what the phrase “developing communication” means. (Tip: You may need to first define each word separately before helping students find the meaning of the phrase.)
2. Guide students to understand that the main forms of verbal communication are speaking and listening. Help students understand that such verbal communication can be informal (conversation) or formal (speeches, debates).

3. Ask students to take turns telling about times that they may have given or listened to a speech.
4. Ask students to explain why some people find it very difficult to speak in front of a group.
5. Invite students to explain why some people have difficulty speaking up in ordinary conversation among family and friends.

View the Video: "Developing Communication Skills"

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Developing Communication Skills".
2. Explain that the video presents role models talking about the importance of good communication skills. Point out that the role models in this video offer a variety of tips for becoming a good speaker and a good listener.
3. Tell students that as they view the video, they should listen for any communication ideas they have never heard before.
4. View the video together.
5. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions and responses to the video.
2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the importance of speaking and listening skills (e.g., "I thought it was interesting that one role model said we can paint pictures with language.").



3. Ask students to work with a partner to list at least three reasons it is important to develop good communication skills. Bring the class together and ask students to share their ideas about the importance of developing good communication skills with the group.
4. Discuss how good communication skills are important in real-life contexts, both in school and in the workplace.
5. Ask students to think of a career they are interested in and imagine how good communication skills are important in that career. Have students share their ideas with a partner. Then come together as a class and allow students who are interested in sharing their ideas with the group to do so.

Extension Activities:

1. Use the “Related Questions to Explore” as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore the importance of communication.
2. Tell students that there are people with careers in the field of communication (and communication disorders), such as speech therapists, audiologists, media consultants, etc. Then, ask students to research some of these communication careers using books, magazines, or the internet.
3. Consider having a communications professional meet with your students in person, via text, voice and/or video so they can respond to comments and answer questions in real time.

Related Questions to Explore:

- In the video, we learned that it is important to think before you speak. What does that mean? What is the value in thinking before speaking? Do you think it is always possible to think before you speak? Why or why not?
- Do you agree that listening is more important than speaking? Why or why not? What are three ways you can practice being a good listener?
- What did the role model mean when she said that communication is a two-way channel? What are some situations where it’s equally important for you to be a good listener and a good speaker?
- Why is it important to speak in a low, confident voice rather than in a loud, rapid voice?
- How do you think professional leaders prepare themselves to speak in front of a group of people? What can you learn from these speakers about bettering your own communication skills?



Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Communication:

1. How to Develop Good Communication Skills: Exploring and Understanding the Attributes that Contribute to Good Communication
2. What Would You Do? Challenging Communication Scenarios for Students to Imagine and Discuss
3. What Can Science Tell Us About Communication? Researching the Statistics of Good Communication
4. The Origins of Language: Universal Communication Behaviors
5. Body Language: Acting Out Our Ideas and Reading Other's Feelings
6. Body Language 2—Similarities and Differences: Gestures and Expressions Across Cultures
7. Famous Speeches and Monologues: Identifying the Hall Markers of Strong Oral Communication