SKILL TREE™

16: *The Magic of Networking*

PK–6

A PK–6 Lesson on Building Relationships, Asking for Help, and Growing Together

Introduction for the Facilitator

This lesson introduces students to the professional skill of **networking**, which means building connections with people who support, inspire, or teach us something new. While this skill may seem advanced, even young students can begin to understand the power of friendships, teamwork, mentorship, and shared growth.

For students, networking starts with simple things: introducing themselves, showing interest in others, offering help, and being open to learning from people around them. Whether it's with classmates, teachers, or family members, strong relationships create new opportunities and build confidence.

Networking becomes part of a student's **personal competitive advantage** when they consistently connect with others in kind, respectful, and purposeful ways. It also helps them build a **lifestyle** filled with encouragement, teamwork, and doors that open as they grow.

This lesson includes:

- **A relatable Social Story**
- **8 Group Discussion Questions with follow-ups**
- **8 Journal Prompts (draw or write)**
- **10 fun, connection-building classroom Activities**
- **A printable Worksheet to explore their personal network**

Let's help students see that **we don't grow alone—we grow together** through the people we connect with.

CAREER TREE®

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Social Story: *Avi Builds His Circle*

Avi was great at doing things by himself. He liked to solve puzzles on his own and usually worked solo on group projects. But sometimes, he got stuck...and didn't know who to ask.

One day, Avi's school hosted a Career Curiosity Day. Students could meet people from different jobs. Avi walked quietly through the gym, unsure who to talk to.



Then, he saw his classmate Camila chatting with a firefighter. "How do you stay brave?" she asked.

The firefighter smiled. "I practice with people who've done it longer than me."

That made Avi think. Maybe asking questions was a good thing. He stepped over to a pilot's table and said, "What helped you learn your job?"

The pilot replied, "I asked a lot of people a lot of questions. That's how I built my network."

That word, "network," stuck in Avi's head. Back at school, he made a small goal: each week, he'd talk to one new person. A teacher. A classmate. Even a librarian.

By the end of the month, Avi had a list of people he trusted, admired, or could learn from. They weren't just friends; they were his **network**.

Knowing how to connect, ask, and grow became part of Avi's **personal competitive advantage**. And it helped him build the **lifestyle** he wanted: one full of possibilities, friendships, and learning from others.

Group Discussion Questions

1. **What does "networking" mean to you?**
   Follow-up: How is it different from just having friends?
2. **Why is it helpful to know lots of different people?**
   Follow-up: What can we learn from people with different strengths?
3. **Who are some people in your life you look up to or learn from?**
   Follow-up: How did you connect with them?
4. **What can you do when you're nervous to talk to someone new?**
   Follow-up: What helps you feel more confident?
5. **Why is asking for help an important skill?**
   Follow-up: How does it build trust with others?
6. **How can you be a good connection or helper to someone else?**
   Follow-up: What's one way to support someone in your network?
7. **How does networking help grow your personal competitive advantage?**
   Follow-up: What's one thing you've learned from someone in your network?
8. **What kind of lifestyle do you want to live?**
   Follow-up: How can connecting with others help you build that life?

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Journal Prompts

(Students can write or draw their answers based on age and ability.)

1. **Draw or write about someone who helps you grow. What do they do for you?**
2. **Who is someone you'd like to learn from? What would you ask them?**
3. **What helps you feel confident when talking to someone new?**
4. **Describe a time you helped someone else and became part of their support team.**
5. **If networking were your superpower, what would your superhero name be? How would you save the world?**
6. **Who is already in your "circle" or network? What makes those people important to you?**
7. **What can you do today to build a stronger connection with someone you admire?**
8. **How does networking help you build your personal competitive advantage?**

Activities

1. **Connection Web Game**
   Toss a yarn ball around the circle. Each person shares a strength or interest. At the end, admire the web you've created—everyone is connected.
2. **"Who Do I Know?" Brainstorm**
   Students list people they know in different areas (such as school, home, and community) who could teach or support them.
3. **Role-Play Introductions**
   Practice confidently introducing yourself and asking a simple question like, "What do you love about your work?" or "Can you tell me more?"
4. **My Super Team Drawing**
   Students draw themselves surrounded by people who help them grow: family, friends, coaches, teachers, role models.
5. **Compliment Challenge**
   Give a kind or specific compliment to three classmates. Help students see how kind words build stronger relationships.
6. **Ask a Grown-Up Interview**
   Students write one thoughtful question and ask it to a school adult, then share what they learned with the class.
7. **My Networking Nametag**
   Create fun nametags where students include their name plus something they're good at or interested in. It makes meeting new people easier!
8. **Connection Cards**
   Create cards with phrases like "Tell me about your hobby" or "What's something new you've learned?" Practice using them in peer conversations.
9. **Classroom Connection Board**
   Students post sticky notes with names of people they've connected with and what they've learned from them.
10. **Circle of Strengths Wall**
    Build a classroom display with each student's name in the center of a circle, surrounded by words from peers describing their strengths.

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My Networking Map

Name:

Helpful Words:

- **Networking** = meeting people who can help me grow—and helping them too
- **Lifestyle Goal** = the kind of life I want to live
- **Personal Competitive Advantage** = my special strengths and habits that help me grow

Directions:
Write or draw your answers.
Your network is your support team!

Use the back of this sheet if you need more space.

1. **One person who helps me grow is:**

2. **Someone I'd like to learn from is:**

3. **Something I can do to connect with others is:**

4. **This is how I help people in my network:**

5. **My Networking Superpower helps me do these things:**

6. **Networking helps me grow my personal competitive advantage by:**

7. **This is how connecting with others helps me live the lifestyle I want:**

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