SKILL TREE™

6: *The Magic of Communication*

PK–6

A PK–6 Lesson on Listening, Speaking Clearly, and Connecting with Confidence

Introduction for the Facilitator

This lesson introduces PK–6 students to the essential professional skill of **communication** so they can express thoughts clearly, listen actively, and build understanding with others.

Communication is more than just talking. It includes our tone, our body language, the way we ask questions, and how well we listen. It helps students share ideas, solve problems, make friends, work in teams, and express their needs with confidence. This skill is one of the most important building blocks of strong relationships and future success.

As students learn to communicate better, they also develop their **personal competitive advantage**—a unique ability to connect with people, lead with clarity, and navigate challenges thoughtfully. And strong communication supports their ability to build the kind of **lifestyle** they want: filled with positive connections, strong teamwork, and opportunities to grow.

This lesson gives students tools to practice being clear, kind, and confident communicators through:

- **A Social Story that models the skill**
- **8 Group Discussion Questions with follow-up questions**
- **8 Journal Prompts that support both writing and drawing**
- **10 interactive classroom Activities to explore and strengthen communication**
- **A printable Worksheet for reflection and practice**

Let's help students see that communication is not just what we say. It's how we build trust, solve problems, and create the life we imagine.

CAREER TREE®

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Social Story: *Leo Learns to Speak Up*

Leo had a lot of great ideas, but he often kept them inside. In group projects, he would wait too long to share. When he needed help, he stayed quiet. And when something bothered him, he'd hold it in until it felt like a big storm in his chest.

One day during science group, the team was building a rocket. Leo saw a part that wasn't working but didn't say anything. The rocket tipped over, and everyone looked confused. "I noticed that earlier," Leo admitted.



"Why didn't you tell us?" asked Raina, a teammate.
"I didn't want to interrupt," Leo said.

Their teacher, Ms. Chen, stepped in. "Leo, your voice matters. Speaking up with kindness and listening with care—that's communication. That's teamwork."

Leo thought about that. He didn't have to be loud to be heard. He just had to be clear, kind, and confident. So the next day, when someone needed help with instructions, Leo offered to read them. When he had a question, he asked it out loud. When someone shared, he made eye contact and listened.

Bit by bit, Leo felt stronger. People listened more, too. His voice mattered. His listening mattered. His communication was becoming part of his **personal competitive advantage**—a strength he could use to build his confidence and create the **lifestyle** he wanted, full of learning, teamwork, and being heard. wanted.

Group Discussion Questions

1. **What does good communication mean to you?**
   Follow-up: What does it look like and sound like in the classroom?
2. **What helps someone feel heard and understood?**
   Follow-up: How can you help others feel that way?
3. **Why is it sometimes hard to speak up or ask for help?**
   Follow-up: What can make it easier?
4. **What does it feel like when someone really listens to you?**
   Follow-up: How can you show that you're really listening?
5. **What happens when we don't speak clearly or listen carefully?**
   Follow-up: How can strong communication prevent problems?
6. **How can communication help us work better in teams?**
   Follow-up: What's your role in making communication strong in your group?
7. **Why is your personal competitive advantage important?**
   Follow-up: How does communication help you build and share it?
8. **What kind of lifestyle do you want to build?**
   Follow-up: How does strong communication help you get there?

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Journal Prompts

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

1. **Draw or write about a time you were proud of the way you communicated.**
2. **Describe a time someone didn't understand you. What could have helped?**
3. **What helps you feel brave when you want to speak up?**
4. **If listening were your superpower, how could you use it to save the day?**
5. **Draw two people having a great conversation. What are they doing with their eyes, hands, and faces?**
6. **What's one thing you can do to be a better communicator today?**
7. **How can communication help you solve a problem with a friend or classmate?**
8. **How does communication help you build your personal competitive advantage?**

Activities

1. **Whisper Relay**
   Students pass a message down the line and see how much changes by the end. Discuss the importance of clear communication.
2. **Show Me Listening**
   Role-play listening with eyes, body, and words. Use mini-challenges to spot great listening in class.
3. **Clear Directions Game**
   One student gives step-by-step directions which others follow to draw a shape. Compare results and discuss clarity.
4. **Emotion Match Voice**
   Say the same phrase in different emotional tones and discuss how tone affects meaning.
5. **"I Message" Practice**
   Students practice saying how they feel using "I feel _____ when _____ because _____."
6. **Eye Contact Dice**
   Roll a large foam die with scenarios like "ask a question," "listen to a friend," or "give a compliment." Practice eye contact and tone.
7. **Silent Builders**
   In small groups, students try to build something (e.g., with blocks) without speaking, then reflect on how communication helps.
8. **Fix the Misunderstanding**
   Read or act out short skits where communication fails. Students offer ideas to improve it.
9. **Good Talk, Bad Talk Sorting**
   Sort statements into "helpful communication" and "hurtful communication." Discuss what makes the difference.
10. **My Communication Superhero**
    Create a superhero with powers like "Kind Voice," "Listening Ears," or "Clear Talk." Share their origin story!

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My Communication Toolkit

Name:

Helpful Words:

- **Communication** = sharing and listening clearly, kindly, and confidently
- **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 voice and ears are tools for connection!

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

1. **One way I like to express myself is:**

2. **One thing that helps me listen better is:**

3. **When I need help, I can say:**

4. **A time I felt proud of my communication was:**

5. **This is how communication helps me build strong friendships:**

6. **This is how communication helps me grow my personal competitive advantage:**

7. **This is how communication helps me live the lifestyle I want:**

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