

Communicate Like a Champ

Objective: To teach students how to improve their communication skills.

Materials:

- Scavenger Hunt Lists (one per person)
- Pencils
- Paper
- Pictures that can be described for drawing
- Pennies or buttons (one per person)
- The Wright Family Story

10 to 15 minutes; People Scavenger Hunt

Provide a scavenger hunt list to each student. Ask the students to find members within their group that fulfill the items on the list. As the students go to different members of the group asking questions, have members initial the item that describes them. Whoever finishes their list first is the winner!

15 to 20 minutes; Back-to-Back Drawing

Have each person in the class get with a partner. Ask the partners to sit back-to-back, making sure there is enough space between pairs so as they cannot see what another pair is drawing. Give one partner a pencil and a blank piece of paper. Give the other partner a picture. The partner with the picture must begin describing the picture to their partner while he or she tries to draw the picture they are describing. The person giving the instructions may not look at what their partner is drawing nor may the partner look at the picture that is being described. Once the first person is done describing the picture and his partner has drawn to the best of his or her ability, let them compare pictures. Now have them switch roles with a new picture and try again!

Once completed, ask students to discuss the activity. Were the pictures identical? Was the activity difficult and why? Did you and your partner communicate well? What could you have said to make your description more clear? Etc.

5 to 10 minutes; Quiet Line Up

Tell the group that the object of this activity is to form a single file line with the birthdays in chronological order. The person whose birthday is closest to January 1st

should be in the front and the person closest to December 31st in the back. No one can talk during the activity. They may use any other method of communicating among themselves except for mouthing words.

When finished discuss what ways of communication was used during the activity.

15 to 20 minutes; Pass Right, Pass Left

Have your entire group form a circle. The best format is to be seated “Indian Style” on the floor. Give each person in the circle a penny or some other small item that can be passed easily from hand to hand. Tell the group that you are going to read a story and every time they hear any word that sounds like right or left, they are to pass the button in their hand to the person on their right or left depending on what they heard. Start reading the story slowly so that they have a chance to catch on to what you want them to do. After a few passes stop the story and ask them how they are doing. Check to see that everyone has a button in his hand. If your group is typical, some will have 2 or 3 buttons while other will not have any. Have them redistribute the buttons so that everyone has one again. Now continue the story, getting faster as you go.

When finished, discuss the activity as a group. What are some reasons as to why not everyone had a button in the end?

SCAVENGER HUNT

_____ Find a person with a birthday in the month of May, June or July.

_____ Find a person who was born in another state.

_____ Find a person who doesn't have brothers or sisters.

_____ Find a person who wears glasses or contacts.

_____ Find a person with a middle name that starts with 'L', 'C', or 'M.'

_____ Find someone who has been to another country.

_____ Find a person that can cross their eyes.

_____ Find someone that has eaten pizza in the past week.

_____ Find a person that likes scary movies.

_____ Find someone that has an animal other than a dog or cat for a pet.

_____ Find someone that is the oldest out off all of their siblings.

_____ Find a person that has never flown on an airplane.

Life with the Wright Family

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left at home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately yelling “It will be a right cold day before I return.”

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright, and Shelly Wright and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway someone had left a trash can in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Tommy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Tommy took so long that they almost left him in the street. Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. Father Wright told her not to worry he had checked the stove and she had not left it on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone.

No need to worry now, they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered that he had left his wallet at home. So Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car saying that she had to throw up. This of course got Mother Wright’s attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright who was playing a game in the backseat.

With all of this going on Father Wright decided that this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all of the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said “I wish the Wright family had never left the house today!”