

# COMMUNICATION INTRO LESSON: TELEPHONE GAME WITH BODY LANGUAGE

Communication is...

sometimes nonverbal.

We also communicate with facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice



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TELEPHONE GAME WITH BODY LANGUAGE

## Students will:

- execute verbal and nonverbal communication

## Materials:

- Communication poster

Good communication is important to getting along well with others, but children often have difficulty understanding that their body language and facial expressions can affect how their words are interpreted.

## Pre-Discussion:

Tell the group that they will be playing a game called "telephone" in two different ways. The first time they play, they will communicate by speaking. Then they will communicate using only their body language and facial expressions.

## Mini Game Directions:

1. For the verbal game of telephone, have students line up next to each other. In the first round, whisper a phrase of your choice to the first student. Each student should then whisper the phrase that she heard to the student next to her, until it reaches the last student. The last student should then say the message aloud, and see if it matches the original.
2. Play the game this way for a few rounds, letting students pick the phrase and having students switch places in the line in between rounds.
3. Explain to students that they will now play a similar game, but instead of passing a

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verbal phrase down the line, they will try to pass a body language expression.

4. Have students line up so that they are all facing one way. Tap the first student on the shoulder, and when he turns around, express an emotion with only body language, such as arms crossed and an angry face. This student should then tap the person in front of him on the shoulder and do his best to imitate the body language. Remind students that they should not turn around until they are tapped on the shoulder. Continue until the last student in the line sees the body language, and have her demonstrate what she saw to the class.
5. Play the body language version for a few rounds, letting students choose the initial body language expression and having students switch places in line in between rounds. Remind students that their body language should express an emotion, like sadness, surprise, disgust, fear, etc., not just a silly pose.

## Post-Discussion:

Once you've played a few rounds of verbal telephone and body language telephone, bring the group back together for a discussion.

The main goal of this lesson is for students to recognize that we communicate both with our words and with our bodies, so we need to be aware of both while we are trying to convey a message. Ask students what they thought about both versions of the game, and try to guide them to this point.

## Vocabulary:

Explain that what we say and how we say it is called **communication**. Communication can be verbal, when we use our words, or nonverbal, when we use facial expressions and body language.

Hang the communication poster in your classroom after this lesson for students' future reference.

# Communication

what you say and  
how you say it

