



Activity 2.2.1 See No Evil, Speak No Evil

Purpose

Working in groups is a common occurrence. You may have been involved in a 4-H club, played on a sports team, or just been assigned a school project where you had to rely on others. When a team works together, the team accomplishes many goals and can achieve great things. When teammates disagree and are confrontational with one another, little is accomplished. What kind of teammate are you?

As you learned in *Lesson 2.1 Listen to Me*, people communicate verbally and nonverbally. Are you a master of communication yet? Put your communication skills to the test as you complete this activity.

Materials

Per group of four students:

- 25 feet of rope

Per student:

- Blindfold
- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

In this activity, you will demonstrate team building, decision-making, and communication skills. You will work with your group to make different shapes using the rope provided to you. Each person in the group must actively participate in the making of each shape. In Part One you will be blindfolded and in Part Two you will not be able to speak. You will need to communicate and work with your group to form the shape as quickly as possible.

Part One – The Sounds of Communication

1. Your teacher will assign you to a group of four. Designate a group member to collect the necessary materials.
2. Find an area in the classroom where you have room to work.
3. Place a blindfold snugly over your eyes.
4. Follow the verbal instructions provided by your teacher. You are allowed to talk and move, but not take your blindfold off.
5. Once you have what you all believe to be the best shape you are capable of making, ask your teacher for approval to remove your blindfold and to see how your team did in making the shape.

Part Two – The Sight of Communication

1. Remain in your group.
6. In this round, you will be able to see, but no talking is allowed. You may use gestures and movement but no voices.
7. Follow the verbal instructions of your teacher to build a new shape.
8. Once you have completed your shape to your group's satisfaction, signal your teacher. If your teacher approves, you may discuss the challenges you faced. If your teacher asks you to try again, remain silent and try to improve the shape you have made.

Part Three – Sights and Sounds

1. In this round, you may talk and see in order to monitor your progress.
9. Work together to create a star shape.
10. Once you have completed your shape to your group's satisfaction, signal your teacher to observe your shape.
11. With your group, discuss the challenges of each shape you made, the importance of good communication, and the roles played by various group members in working together. Record your observations in Table 1.

Table 1. Observations

Trial	Observations
Part One – Sounds of Communication	It was pretty easy. It was kinda hard getting a bearing on your location but when we were in a square formation it was pretty easy.
Part Two – Sights of Communication	It was super easy we just stood in a diamond.
Part Three – Sights and Sounds	It was kind of difficult but once we figured out what we were doing it was easy.

Conclusion

1. What role does communication play in working with others?

It helps you work together and to do things as a team.

12. Why are both verbal and nonverbal skills important when communicating?

They are both important because without verbal and nonverbal skills nothing would get done because nobody would know what to do.

13. How does this activity relate to real life group decision making?

By making a decision by a group and contributing towards it

14. What challenge did your group face when building the star as compared with the other shapes?

There was only 4 group members so there wasn't enough for all to hold a corner