



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 wasn't that hard because we talked and out
Part Two – Sights of Communication	It was really easy because we could see what we were doing
Part Three – Sights and Sounds	We got it done really fast because we could talk and see and tell each other was they were doing and also so what they were doing

Conclusion

1. What role does communication play in working with others? You can tell them what to do
12. Why are both verbal and nonverbal skills important when communicating? because he could see and tell you what to do
13. How does this activity relate to real life group decision making? Because you have to decide what to do and were to place your self
14. What challenge did your group face when building the star as compared with the other shapes? Not really any because we worked really good together.