Social Skills Anchor Charts

Anchor Charts are developed together with the class to make thinking permanent and visible. They allow the class to clarify thinking, make connections, and/or remember a specific skill, strategy, or concept. These skills will be used throughout the year while doing group work/cooperative activities. The charts can be kept and reviewed periodically, as needed.

Encouraging Others

Why is it important to encourage others?

- All ideas and students are respected.
- People feel good when others encourage them.
- Students feel like a team and enjoy working together.
- It is safe to take risks.
- So students want to participate in group activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looks like …</th>
<th>Sounds like …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ Watching the speaker</td>
<td>♦ That is interesting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Nodding the head</td>
<td>♦ Tell me more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Smiling</td>
<td>♦ That is a great movie.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking Turns

Why do we take turns?

- Each person has a chance to speak.
- Everyone knows their thinking is important.
- The group benefits from everyone’s ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looks like …</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ Only one person speaks at a time.</td>
<td>♦ It is your turn next.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Group members watch the speaker.</td>
<td>♦ Who is next?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Group members are smiling.</td>
<td>♦ Tell us your thinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ It is your turn next.</td>
<td>♦ I like your idea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Listening and Summarizing

Why do we summarize?

- It encourages active listening when hearing each other’s ideas.
- It clarifies and helps check for understanding.
- It encourages students to pick out key information, give examples, organize their thinking, and draw conclusions.
- Students learn to summarize their thinking and consider other strategies for solving problems.
- It encourages participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looks like …</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ Making eye contact, nodding head</td>
<td>♦ Is there anything I missed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Taking turns</td>
<td>♦ I think this is the main idea of what you were saying …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Encouraging others</td>
<td>♦ You seem to be saying …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Listening carefully to everyone’s ideas</td>
<td>♦ The strategy you used was … and your conclusion is…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Be sensitive to the fact that in some cultures it is considered disrespectful to maintain direct eye contact with another person.
Social Skills Anchor Charts

Including All Participants

*Why do we include all participants?*
- Everyone feels valued and important.
- People want to participate if they are included.
- Everyone is willing to take risks when solving problems.
- People enjoy working together as a team.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looks like …</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ All group members are focused.</td>
<td>♦ It is your turn now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Eyes are on the speaker.</td>
<td>♦ Do you have an idea to share?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Smiles on everyone’s faces.</td>
<td>♦ What do you think about this idea?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Each person takes a turn speaking.</td>
<td>♦ Does this make sense to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Do you mean … ?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Disagreeing in an Agreeable Way

*Why do we disagree in an agreeable way?*
- Everyone feels their ideas are being considered even if there are differences of opinion.
- It is important to hear everyone’s ideas because a combination of ideas often produces the best idea.
- People want to participate if they are treated with respect.
- Everyone is willing to take risks when solving problems.
- People enjoy working together as a team.
- Calm, quiet, controlled voices contribute to a positive classroom climate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looks like …</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ Making eye contact with a slight shake of the head</td>
<td>♦ I understand what you are thinking but have you ever considered …?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Listening to someone’s entire idea before speaking</td>
<td>♦ Your idea is important but have you thought about …?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Smiling at the speaker</td>
<td>♦ I think I understand what you are saying but have you thought about …?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Giving a puzzled or questioning look</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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