
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.

<i>Looks like ...</i>	<i>Sounds like ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Watching the speaker◆ Nodding the head◆ Smiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ That is interesting.◆ Tell me more.◆ That is a great movie.

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.

<i>Looks like ...</i>	<i>Sounds like ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Only one person speaks at a time.◆ Group members watch the speaker.◆ Group members are smiling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ It is your turn next.◆ Who is next?◆ Tell us your thinking.◆ I like your idea.

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.

<i>Looks like ...</i>	<i>Sounds like ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Making eye contact, nodding head◆ Taking turns◆ Encouraging others◆ Listening carefully to everyone's ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Is there anything I missed?◆ I think this is the main idea of what you were saying ...◆ You seem to be saying ...◆ The strategy you used was ... and your conclusion is...

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

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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.

<i>Looks like ...</i>	<i>Sounds like ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ All group members are focused.◆ Eyes are on the speaker.◆ Smiles on everyone's faces.◆ Each person takes a turn speaking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ It is your turn now.◆ Do you have an idea to share?◆ What do you think about this idea?◆ Does this make sense to you?◆ Do you mean ... ?

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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.

<i>Looks like ...</i>	<i>Sounds like ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Making eye contact with a slight shake of the head◆ Listening to someone's entire idea before speaking◆ Smiling at the speaker◆ Giving a puzzled or questioning look	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ I understand what you are thinking but have you ever considered?◆ Your idea is important but have you thought about ...?◆ I think I understand what you are saying but have you thought about ...?

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