

Teaching Social Skills, Creating Successful Students Having a Conversation

Objective	Students will apply the skill of "Having a Conversation" to discuss academic content.
Materials Needed	A Small Ball
Planned Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students why it might be important to be able to have a conversation with another person. What can go wrong during a conversation? Does anyone have examples? • Tell them the steps of "having a conversation" and refer to your wall poster or write them on the board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the person 2. Use a pleasant voice. 3. Listen to what the other person says. 4. When there is a break in the conversation, ask a question or share your thoughts. • Show the short video about having a conversation: http://bit.do/BTConversation
Academic Content Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell students that they will practice having a conversation. • Give them a topic to discuss (their prior knowledge of a new content, reviewing previous content, or sharing opinions on academic content). • Let students know that they will say one or two sentences, pause, and then pass the ball to someone else. Then that person will say something- ask a question or share a thought. • Remind students that they are to use a pleasant voice, listen to what others say and to make sure that everyone gets a chance to talk. This is the whole point of having a conversation. So, for talkative students, they should make sure they are giving all students a chance to have the ball and share. And for quieter students, they should make sure they are sharing something. • Discuss with the class how they can use a pleasant voice and gently remind each other to include everyone and to encourage others to speak.
Assessment	This activity is informally assessed. If desired, students can earn a participation grade.