

# COMMUNICATION GAME



## BENEFITS

Teaches communication skills and gives students practice with these skills.

## TIME

20 to 30 minutes

## ACTIVITY

Draw the following chart on a blackboard, whiteboard, or large piece of paper. Write down the first situation and leave the dialogue boxes empty. Tell students they are going to learn some skills that will help them communicate more clearly with friends and relatives.

Ask the students to imagine that a friend comes up and remarks, “Joe won’t let me join the kickball game.” Then go through the different ways to respond, starting with Restate and ending with Encourage or Empathize, as in the example below. After showing the first two situations, ask the class to come up with responses for the last scenario.

SITUATION	RESTATE	REFLECT FEELINGS	ASK QUESTIONS	SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE	ENCOURAGE OR EMPATHIZE
Joe won’t let me join the kickball game.	He said you can’t play?	You look mad. You sound frustrated.	When did he say that? Who was there? Did anyone stick up for you?	Tony did that to me on Tuesday.	That is so annoying!
Mary told Frank that I like him!	She told Frank?	You sound upset.	How do you know she told him? What did you say to her?	I’ve had girls do that to me. I was really mad.	I’m sorry she did that. I know you didn’t want anyone to tell.
My mom won’t let me go to the slumber party.					

After completing the third scenario, divide the class into two groups. Ask two volunteers from Group 1 to come to the front of the room. Write a new situation in the next row of the matrix and tell the students they will have three minutes to keep a conversation going using the different communication skills. Each time they use one of the skills, put a check under each skill. Each check is worth a point. If the two people get stuck, they can ask for help from others on their team. Then have two students from Group 2 do the same. The group with the most points at the end of the game wins.

It is best to go two or three rounds before declaring a winner so the students have more time to practice.

After playing this game in groups, have students divide into pairs and practice together for 2 to 3 minutes. It helps to give them a subject such as “Tell about a time when you were really scared.”