

Title of Lesson: Silent Communication		
Date of Creation: August 6th, 2022	Creator of the Lesson: Gigi Shingala	
Grade Level: Grades 6-9 (11-15-year olds)	Subject: English, Social Science	Time Duration: 50 minutes
<p>Summary of Lesson: To teach students about various ways to communicate, students will participate in an activity that requires them to find ways to express their thoughts without using any words. The goal is to practice understanding a diverse range of communication methods to create a more inclusive and accepting environment.</p>		
<p>DSE Alignment: The DSE tenet addressed in this lesson is to promote inclusive educational opportunities by creating a community that accommodates different forms of communication. The disability focus of this lesson will be on those who communicate using methods other than verbal communication.</p>		
<p>Lesson Objectives and Assessments: <u>Objective 1:</u> Students will acknowledge and understand that people communicate in various ways, and the way social structures can create barriers to the use of nonverbal communication. <u>Assessment 1:</u> Have the students attempt to express specific thoughts, feelings, or requests without using any words, then have the students discuss which aspect of the activity was the most difficult for them and why. Ask the students to consider what specific structures (school/classroom policy, social expectations, etc) prevented them from being understood. <u>Objective 2:</u> Students will learn how to better communicate with others beyond traditional verbal communication. <u>Assessment 2:</u> After the activity, students will share the techniques they found useful, as well as what their classmates tried that were effective in allowing others to understand their needs.</p>		
<p>Teacher Guide: <u>Anticipatory Set:</u> The teacher will ask students if they think it's possible to communicate our needs and feelings without saying a single word. Demonstrate a few examples using facial expressions and body language. Continue to</p>		

brainstorm ideas with the students to see what they can come up with on their own. Include forms of communication such as writing, typing, texting, sign language, gestures, and the use of electronic devices.

Lesson Progression (Will the lesson unfold/develop?):

Introducing that today's topic will focus on various communication methods other than verbal communication.

The class will participate in an exercise that requires each student to express their thoughts, feelings, or requests without using any words.

Begin by generating a list of statements such as;

- I don't understand the work and I need help.
- I would like to work independently.

Allow the students to include their own suggestions as well.

Sentences will be written down on a piece of paper, folded, and put into a bowl. Students will select one of the papers and keep it to themselves. They will need to find ways to express the need written on the paper they have selected, while other students in the group try to decipher the message.

Inform the students that the goal of the exercise is to put ourselves in the shoes of others so that we can discover ways to become more accommodating and help transform social structures that are acting as barriers to accepting diverse communication styles.

Closure: After the exercise, we will discuss what we learned from the activity. Students will share the techniques they found useful, as well as what their classmates tried that were effective in allowing others to understand their needs. Advise the students that there is no "one size fits all" approach or strategy that works for everyone, and to be open-minded in discovering different techniques.

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Required Materials/Equipment:

Paper, Pen/Pencil, Marker, Bowl/Basket.

Extensions/Practice:

Take note of the suggestions and conclusions that the teacher and students came up with during the lesson, regarding different ways to communicate and understand new ways of communication. Discuss how we can individually do our part in transforming social structures to make space for non-verbal communication.

References:

HIE Help Center. Disability Awareness Class Activity Lesson Plans: Wordless Class Activity. <https://hiehelpcenter.org/disability-awareness-class-lessons/wordless.html>

SpeechEase. 6 Examples of Non-Verbal Communication You Should Know. <https://www.speechease.net.au/our-voice/examples-of-non-verbal-communication/>