

Session Topic: Social Skills (Crazy Sentence)

Developmental Level: Middle School

Purpose: To practice using observational and listening skills; to discuss why they are important

Materials Needed: paper, pencils, 2 chairs

Description of Session:

1. To begin, have the students take turn stepping out into the hallway and changing one thing about their appearance (roll a sleeve up, take off a bracelet, etc). When they come back in the room, the other students need to guess what they changed about themselves.
2. Prior to this activity make up a dozen or so sentences that are complete and correct but make them crazy and random; then write each sentence on a small piece of paper. Some examples of crazy sentences are:
 - My prom date had a large tattoo
 - Big Bird is my idol
 - The blue cow swam over the moon
 - It is good to eat spiders and caterpillars for breakfast
 - Rubber bands stick to the ceiling on Christmas Day
3. Set 2 chairs in the front of the room. Select two people from the group and ask them to sit in the chairs. Give each person a piece of paper with one of the crazy sentences on it. The two players must read the sentence to themselves and then engage in conversation. Each player attempts to state his/her sentence in the course of conversation. The object is to slip in the sentence without the other person guessing what it is. You may wish to give them a topic to start talking about such as fishing, country music, bowling, buying shoes, etc. Also give them a one or two minute time limit to slip their sentences in to the conversation. After the time limit, allow the people in the audience to guess what the crazy sentence is and whoever guesses correctly is given the opportunity to play the game for the next round.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you have to do in order to detect the hidden sentence or the changed appearance?
2. When do you use your best listening or observing skills? Why?
3. When is it important for you to show good listening and observing skills?

Reference: Jones, A. (1998). *104 Activities that Build*. Lusby MD: Rec Room Publishing.