FOURTH GRADE
LESSON IV
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS
AND ASSERTIVENESS

Objectives
Students will
• Practice effective communication skills
• Practice respect for peers
• Demonstrate strategies and skills in assertiveness

Concepts
1. Good communication skills include
   A. Knowing that feelings influence listening and communication
   B. Knowing how the feelings of others influence communication
   C. Looking for hidden meanings
   D. Express wishes clearly
   E. Being assertiveness
   F. Say what is meant
   G. Understanding body language in conversation
   H. Avoiding sexual harassment
      1. respect each other
      2. demonstrate dignity and equality
      3. avoid sexual stereotyping
      4. know the difference between flirting/teasing and sexual harassment

Materials
• Worksheet “Effective Communication Skills”
• Worksheet “Case Studies”
• Question box

Activity Choices
1. Read or role-play some of the following situations in the worksheet “Effective Communication Skills.” After each situation, ask the class to choose the most effective response.
2. Leave the last 10 minutes of the class to ask, “What has been learned by these activities?”
3. Identify and discuss:
   A. Need for self-confidence and self-respect
   B. Need for effective communication skills
   C. Need for respect for parents and all people
   D. Need for awareness of own feelings and attitudes and how they affect behavior
   E. Influence of parents and peers
   F. How responsibilities and privileges grow during the maturation process.
4. When does sexual harassment happen at school? Who is hurt by it? Have students complete the worksheet "Case Studies" about sexual harassment. Discuss their answers.

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**SITUATION:**
Your best friend asked you to come to his/her home after school, but someone in your family will need to pick you up after dinner. What would you do?

**POSSIBLE RESPONSES:**

A. You stop at home and say, “Mom, may I ask you something? Sally’s mom is outside in the car and Sally asked me to come over to play, but she can’t bring me back home. I really want to go. Could you please pick me up at 6:30?”

B. You go ahead and go to your friend’s home and just call home later to get someone to pick you up.

C. You stop at home and yell, “Hey Mom, I’m going over to Sally’s house. Pick me up about 6:30,” as you run out the door.

D. You call from school and say, “You better give me a ride home when I’m done playing at Sally’s house. I’ll call you when I want you to be there.”

**SITUATION:**
Father asked Armando to take out the trash. Armando said he would, but forgot and went off to ride his bike with friends. When he came home, his father had to remind him. What would you do?

**POSSIBLE RESPONSES:**

A. “Why do I always have to do it? I don’t see why I always get the yukky jobs.”

B. “You could have done it. You’ve just been watching TV.”

C. “Yeah. I’ll do it later.”

D. “Are you angry with me because I forgot? Okay, I’ll do it now.”

**SITUATION:**
You and your mother are shopping. You want to buy a tape that costs $8.00. You say “Will you buy it for me?” She says, “No!” What would you do?

**POSSIBLE RESPONSES:**

A. You wait until you get home, then say, “I really want that tape. I know $8.00 is a lot, but I could do some special chores for you this week.”

B. When you are still in the store. You say, “Mom, I have to have it! Please, please, please buy it for me!”

C. “You always buy something for yourself and never for me.”

D. “Mom, why won’t you ever buy me what I want? You always say no. You didn’t even look at it. Come over here and just look at it.”
SITUATION:
Your teacher returned a paper to you that had a bad grade on it. You had two problems marked wrong. You checked with your friends. They had the same answers as you, and their answers were not marked wrong. What would you do?
POSSIBLE RESPONSES:
A. You tell all your friends that the teacher never liked you, and she’s an old witch.
B. You tell the teacher, “You never liked me, and you’re an old witch.”
C. You go up to the teacher during class and say, “You marked these two problems wrong, and they are right.”
D. You wait until after class and say, “I checked my paper with some of the other students, and I think two of the problems marked wrong are right. Would you check them again, please?”

SITUATION:
Your mother says to you, “I don’t want you hanging around with the big kid anymore. He’s a creep and too old for you.” What do you do?
POSSIBLE RESPONSES:
A. "You can’t tell me with whom to be friends.”
B. “I really like Fernando. I know he is older than me, but he’s been teaching me how to play basketball. Why do you think Fernando is a creep?”
C. “You never like my friends. You never want me to have any fun.”
D. “Dad says it’s ok.”

SITUATION:
David wants to go to the concert at the community center with a friend. The concert starts at 9:00 pm. and probably won’t be over until 11:30 pm. They plan to take the bus and go by themselves. David’s parents say he can’t go without an adult. David says he wants to go with his friend or not at all. What would you do?
POSSIBLE RESPONSES:
A. “You always treat me like a baby!”
B. “You better let me go, or I won’t do anymore work around here!”
C. "I really want to go someplace with just my friends. Could we take the bus to the mall or to a movie?"
D. "Jeff’s mother said he could go. Why can’t I?"

SITUATION:
You are waiting for school to start with a group of friends. A cute girl/boy walks by and your friends say out loud “What a Babe.” What would you do?
POSSIBLE RESPONSES:
A. Laugh with the group and make a comment about the person’s looks.
B. Laugh with the group but don’t say anything.
C. Don’t laugh or say anything, and try to help your friends understand that what they are doing is hurtful and against the law.
Case Studies
Sexual Harassment

The last situation in the previous activity leads into this activity.

Directions: Sexual harassment is something said or done, of a sexual nature, that is unwanted. Read the following case studies and answer the questions about the examples below:

Is this sexual harassment?
Why?
Who is the harasser?
Who is harassed?
What should be done?

1. A boy tells dirty jokes in front of girls. The girls ask him to stop but he replies that they don’t have a sense of humor.

2. Some girls make up “love notes,” sign other students’ name to them, and pass them around the classroom.

3. Boys snap girls’ bras.

4. A boy gets mad at a girl and won’t speak to her.

5. A girl called a boy a fag because of his clothes.

6. A girl tells a boy that she likes him.

7. A boy starts a rumor that another girl and boy are having sex.

8. Some students started a rumor that another student has AIDS.