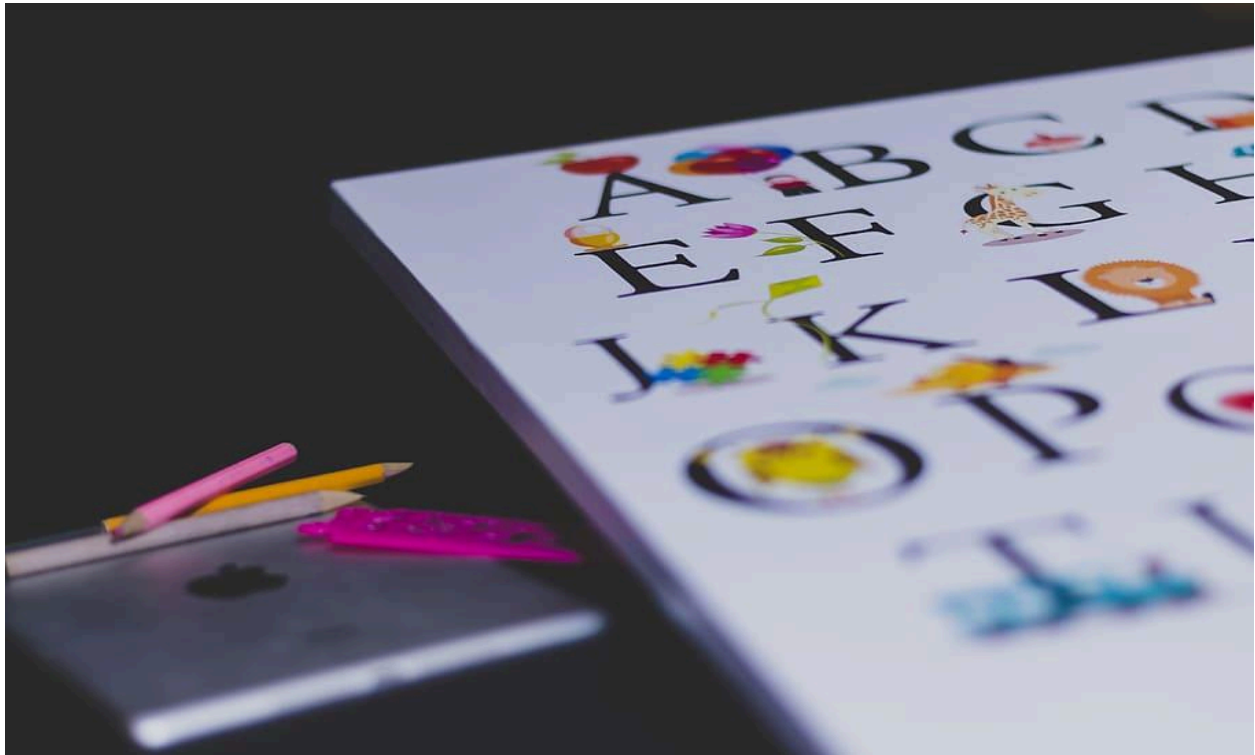


COMMUNICATION SKILLS – ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION SKILLS



The ability to communicate effectively and efficiently can be described as an essential life skill in 21st century skills for kids. Communication skills in kids is imperative to their development phase and teaching them these skills during childhood can go a long way to help them master their skills as they grow.

Before we dive in further, let's understand what communication skills are. Communication skills have to do with listening, speaking, observing and empathizing. Communication skills can be described as the ability to express ourselves clearly, politely and confidently in all aspects of our lives. Communication for transferring information to others, people and understanding what is said to us, thereby, resulting in greater understanding among people. Good communication skills will possibly guarantee better understanding among individuals, lessen conflicts and create a harmonious atmosphere in many situations. On the other hand, poor communication skills may lead to frequent misunderstanding, frustration and conflicts.

Communication in kids begins fairly early. From the moment they are born into this world to their growing up stages, they learn how to communicate to delve into human society, to convey their ideas to other people and understand what information others want to transfer to them. Hence for them, communication should be carried out verbally (with speech), nonverbally (without speech but gestures) and visually.

Here are some basic communication skills kids should learn:

Establish Eye Contact

Children should be to establish eye contact with the person they are talking to. This simply a sign of interest and respect. Looking away during a conversation is an indication of disinterest and most often then not, constitute bad manners.

Speak Correctly and Clearly

Children need to learn to speak correctly and clearly. Train them to speak using correct pronunciation and the right grammar. It should be impressed upon them not to speak hurriedly.

Be A Good Model

Parents need to model appropriate listening behaviour, so that kids may listen attentively and respond aptly. Your kids learn to communicate by watching you carefully. When you talk with your kids and others in a respectful way, this gives a powerful message about positive communication.

Join in A Conversation Politely

Parents may also demonstrate to their children the art of entering a conversation politely, and the right way to behave when someone joins a lively conversation, which includes greeting the person or persons with an encouraging smile and nod.

Avoid Interrupting An Ongoing Conversation

Parent should instruct their kids not to interrupt an on-going conversation and start talking because they want to. It is important to check this behaviour and encourage self-control.

There are instances when your kids are unable to communicate effectively and it at this point that you build open line of communication so that your kids or children can easily approach you and express themselves without hesitation. Let your kids have plenty of time to process what they want to say and allow them to finish to prevent the occurrence stuttering. Refrain from cutting in or interrupting them while they are trying to respond. One important thing to also avoid is over-correction and being over-critical while teaching your kids to speak or communicate well. It will destabilize and discourage them; listen and respond in a loving and sensitive way to all kinds of things- not just nice things or good news, but also anger, embarrassment, sadness and fear.

It is said that having strong communication skills facilitates us in various facets of life; in both personal and professional aspects. It may take a lifetime to hone these skills and it is thereby essential that as parents you start teaching your kids how to communicate effectively at an early stage because it will help them express themselves clearly and convey their feelings in a better manner. It will boost their IQ by helping them build healthy relationships during interaction with

other people and have strong self- esteem. In addition, it will enable them to perform better academically.