



Teaching Social Skills to Students

What is BoysTown?

MVUSD has chosen to use the Boystown social skills model as part of PBIS at all sites.

What is BoysTown?

The idea is that many of the challenges kids face in relating to others socially are a result of skill deficits. If we can proactively teach skills, we can change the culture of how expectations are communicated.

What is BoysTown?

Let's look at some of the skills needed to navigate a few common social scenarios....

Lunch buffet

Going to a school dance

Going to the movies with a friend

Going to recess

Riding the bus

What is BoysTown?

Consider: Can these skills be taught? And how should they be taught? Who should teach them?

What is BoysTown?

This brings us to talking about what BoysTown is all about. Let's look at some of the skill steps, just to get started.

SAMPLE SKILL

LISTENING

1. Look at the person and remain quiet.
2. Wait until the person is through before you speak
3. Nod your head and say “Ok” or “That’s Interesting”

SAMPLE SKILL

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Look at the person who is giving you the instruction
2. Say “ok”
3. Do what you have been asked right away
4. Check back to let the person know when you have completed the task

SAMPLE SKILL

ASKING FOR HELP

1. Look at the person
2. Ask if he or she has time to help you
3. Clearly explain what you need
4. Thank the person

SAMPLE SKILL

STAYING ON TASK

1. Look at your assignment
2. Think about the steps needed to complete it.
3. Focus all of your attention
4. Stop working only when instructed.
5. Ignore Distractions

SAMPLE SKILL

WORKING WITH OTHERS

1. Identify the task.
2. Assign tasks to each person
3. Discuss and share ideas.
4. Work on tasks until completed.

SAMPLE SKILL

ACCEPTING CRITICISM

1. Look at the person
2. Say “ok”
3. Stay calm

SAMPLE SKILL

DISAGREEING APPROPRIATELY

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice.
3. Tell why you feel differently.
4. Give a reason.
5. Listen to the other person.



SKILL PRACTICE: DISAGREEING APPROPRIATELY

Teaching New Skills

Always teach new skills and review skill steps during neutral times, when kids are calm, compliant and ready to learn.

"Today, we are going to talk about the skill of Accepting Criticism or Consequences. First we will identify the steps to this skill, talk about the benefits of using it, and then practice what it looks like."

Teaching New Skills

Always teach new skills and review skill steps during neutral times, when kids are calm, compliant and ready to learn.

"Bobby, before Eddie comes over to play today, I want to talk to you about staying calm. I know sometimes you get upset if someone takes a toy from you. If you feel upset, you can just say, "Eddie, I'll be right back." Then you can step away and take some deep breathes or come find me to help you.

Being ProActive with skills

Consider what times of the day a student may struggle most with a certain skill and offer planned/proactive teaching before those times.

“Remember class, when you go to this assembly, it is important to use the skill of following instructions. When an adult gives you an instruction, you should look at them, say “ok” and do what they ask right away. This helps everyone to get settled quickly so the assembly can start on time.”

Being ProActive with skills

Consider what times of the day a student may struggle most with a certain skill and offer planned/proactive teaching before those times.

“Remember Johnny, when we get out of the car, I want to you told my hand and walk right next to me in the parking lot. This is how I can make sure you are safe.

Being ProActive with Skills

Consider what times of the day a student may struggle most with a certain skill and offer planned/proactive teaching before those times.

“Now Sally, when we go to the park, you might see a child you don’t know. Remember you can walk up to that child and say, “Hi, my name is Sally, can I play with you?” The other girl will be more likely to play with you if you talk to her this way.

Praising Use of Skills

Use effective praise when you see a skill demonstrated, especially when you know a student is working hard on a certain skill.

"Way to go Johnny! You asked for help just like we practiced. You looked at me, raised your hand, and asked your question clearly. That really helps me to know how I can help you so we can get this math assignment done correctly."

Praising New Skills

Use effective praise when you see a skill demonstrated, especially when you know a student is working hard on a certain skill.

“Yeah Sally! I saw that you went up to that girl at the park and introduced yourself just like we talked about. You told her your name in a friendly voice and asked if you could play with her. That’s exactly how we can meet new friends at the park.”

Supporting BoysTown at Home

We are excited about a new parenting program we are offering what will teach parents the concepts of BoysTown and how to integrate skill teaching into life at home.

COMMON SENSE PARENTING
3 weeks, 3 hours each week

Supporting BoysTown at Home

PARENTS ARE TEACHERS

Identifying positive and negative behaviors, learning to use descriptive terms, thinking about potential reinforcers

Supporting BoysTown at Home

ENCOURAGING GOOD BEHAVIOR

Understanding rationales, figuring out what your child does well. This is what we want to build on!

Example: When you are able to get along with others, its more likely that others will want to be around you.

Supporting BoysTown at Home

TEACHING SOCIAL SKILLS

Identifying problem areas for your child and what skills might need taught/reinforced.

*Ideas – Child is aggressive toward peers.
Is he struggling to communicate his ideas?
Is he unable to take turns?
Does he not know how to accept criticism?*

The ABC Model

Antecedents

events or conditions present in the environment prior to the behavior

Behaviors

anything a person says or does that can be observed and measured

Consequences

events in the environment following a behavior that influence the future occurrence of the behavior

Supporting BoysTown at Home

CORRECTING PROBLEMS

Talking about a stay calm plan. Using corrective teaching/consequences to shape behavior.

Supporting BoysTown at Home

TEACHING SELF CONTROL

Safe home rule, handling out of control behaviors

Supporting BoysTown at Home

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Choose a problem behavior – identify needed skill – use preventative teaching – give effective praise and positive consequences – use corrective teaching and teach self-control if needed – then re-teach the skill

When is the next Common Sense Parenting Class?

We're GLAD you asked!



Teaching Social Skills in Schools