

Middle School Drama- Social and Advocacy Skills Discussion Handout

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Communication

Everyone experiences communication breakdowns. However, in middle school this happens a little more frequently. Many teenagers feel that parents don’t understand or can’t relate to what they are feeling. Keep talking to your child. Don’t be afraid to use different methods of communicating with your child (i.e. writing notes, singing songs, drawing a picture or even expressions)

Types of Communicator

Everyone has their own style regarding communication. Communication also relies on perception. Three types of communicators are often seen in middle school:

Shy- passive, does not like to draw attention to self, will not ask for clarity, resist social interaction.

Bossy- demands attention, blames others for communication breakdown, dominates conversation

Confident- Ask for clarification, understand that misunderstanding happen, respectful and considerate of others.

What can a parent do?

1. Recognize that your child may be feeling angry or sad and that it is okay.
2. Be factual and honest with your child!
3. Connect your child with other children or successful adults with a hearing loss.
4. Work with your child’s IEP team.
5. Inform teachers and other staff members of child’s needs.
6. Encourage your child to speak up about what they need.
7. Make a connection and build a relationship with the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Audiologist

References:

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