

Soft Skills: What Should Have Been Learned in Kindergarten

ABSTRACT: The top complaint by employers nationwide is the lack of *soft skills* in job applicants. The lack of developed soft skills can force college graduates to take jobs well below their education and technical (hard skills) knowledge. This session will explore *WHAT* soft skills are, *WHY* they are critically important, and *HOW* to develop and integrate soft skills into your curriculum. Come join us for an interactive discussion focused on designing activities that promote the development and assessment of soft skills to unleash the full potential of our graduates by bridging the gap between job applicant behavior and employer expectations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the conclusion of this presentation, you will be able to:

- Explain **what** soft skills are
- Describe **why** you should emphasize developing soft skills
- Identify **how** to develop activities focused on developing soft skills

ONLINE RESOURCES: The links to other resources related to soft skills are available virtually at:

http://bit.ly/TeachSoft_Skills

or use this QR Code →



Questions

Describe each of these

1. What are soft skills?
2. What are hard skills?
3. Why teach soft skills?
4. Shoulder Partner Activity
5. How do you teach soft skills?
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Activity
 - c. Conclusion/Reflection
 - d. Extension Activity
6. Teaching Time Management Activity
7. Teaching Communication Activity
8. 1-Minute Rendezvous Activity

Summary/Reflection

Infusing Soft Skills: Activities and More

Soft Skills	Activities	Extension Activities
Teamwork	Do a skit	Write a case study
	Journaling activity	Complete a quiz
	Small group reflection	Poster presentation
	Create a list, draw a picture, act out	Write a report
Verbal Communication	Watch a video followed by discussion	Develop a hands-on activity
	Demo then reflection/discussion	Give an oral presentation
	Role play then reflection/discussion	Write a reflection journal
	Brainstorm possible solutions	Create a top 10 list relevant to the topic
Written Communication	Discuss a quote	Make a video
	Skill inventory then reflect	Learning log
	Teambuilding exercise	PowerPoint presentation
	Discuss a case study	Write and perform a skit
Positive Attitude	What would you do if...	Make a TV or radio commercial
	Tell me about a time when...	Create a flow chart or diagram
	Conversation starter prompt	Create questions and an answer key
	Group activity	Make an instructional video
Problem Solving Critical Thinking	Discussions	Create an infographic
	Hold a debate	Use a Venn diagram to compare two aspects of the topic
	Concept map	Make a pamphlet or brochure
	Unfolding case studies	Write a newspaper article
Professionalism	Real-world simulation	Write a series of tweets
	Storytelling	Create a Facebook wall
	Cognitive rehearsal	Create a Pinterest board
	Mind mapping	Start a blog
Time Management	Illustration	Create an Internet scavenger hunt
	Coffee House	Write an advice column with several problems related to the topic
	World Cafe	Create flash cards or trivia cards
	Socratic Seminar	Make a short documentary film
	Philosophical Chairs	Create a newsletter
	Jigsaw Activity	
	Analyze a Photograph	

Soft Skills Teaching Plan

Soft Skill		
Discussion	Activity	
Conclusion/Reflection	Extension Activity	

Teaching Time Management Activity

Part 1 – Morning routine while simultaneously counting out loud backwards from 100 by ones

Number of
Words Written

Number Reached
When Counting

Part 2 – Morning routine

**Count backwards from 100
by ones**

Number of
Words Written

Number Reached
When Counting

Teaching Communication Activity