

4 WAYS TO USE SOCIAL THINKING VOCABULARY TO KICK OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Remember to teach the thinking behind the doing



VISUALS SUPPORT LEARNING



Use speech/thought bubbles when reading books to help kids understand **thoughts and feelings** in characters, while also supporting basic literacy skills.



TALK ABOUT THE “GROUP PLAN” INSTEAD OF “SCHEDULE”

Talking about the **group plan** reminds students they’re part of something bigger. It also gives them clues about what is happening in the activity or lesson.

TALK ABOUT “THINK WITH YOUR EYES” RATHER THAN PAY ATTENTION OR LISTEN UP!

When showing graphs or picture books, remind students to **think with their eyes** to gather clues. Teach that thinking with our eyes can show we’re connected to the place, person, and what’s happening.



FIGURING OUT UNSPOKEN EXPECTATIONS IS A LIFE SKILL!

Teach that some expectations are written rules so they are clear. But other expectations are never talked about. Have kids brainstorm unspoken expectations, given place, people, and what's happening (e.g. we raise our hand in class but not on the playground, why?).

USE VOCABULARY FOR TEACHING! NEVER FOR SCOLDING OR REDIRECTING BEHAVIOR.

Students need to hear strategies for what to do rather than what not to do. Social Thinking Vocabulary can help make abstract ideas more understandable!

USING THE SOCIAL THINKING METHODOLOGY THE FIRST 6 WEEKS OF SCHOOL

A quick guide to teaching the thinking
behind the doing

USE VISUAL SUPPORTS

Props like thought bubbles and
speech bubbles help to make
abstract concepts concrete

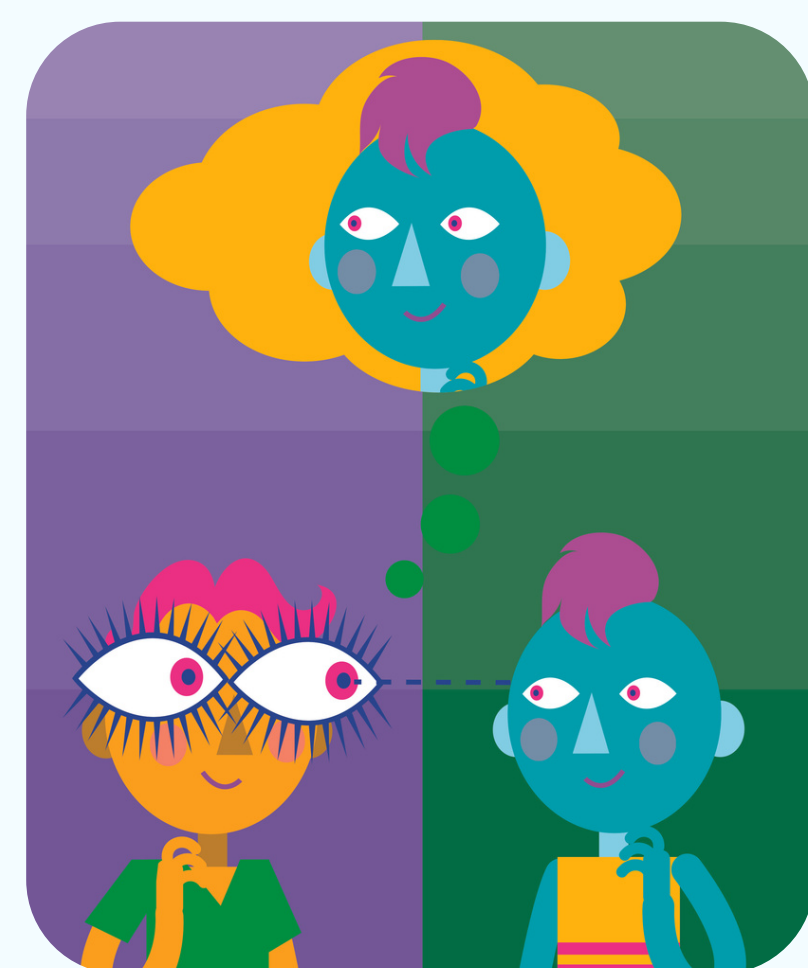


TALK ABOUT THE “GROUP PLAN” INSTEAD OF “SCHEDULE”

This reminds students they are part
of a bigger whole and gives content
for expectations

CALL ON/DISMISS STUDENTS NONVERBALLY BY “THINKING WITH YOUR EYES”

This helps students to practice observing
and using their eyes to gather information.



WHEN SETTING EXPECTATIONS: SITUATION + PEOPLE

Have students observe and discuss.
What are the hidden rules, given the
specific situation and people involved?

USE VOCABULARY TO TEACH, NOT TO SCOLD OR REDIRECT

This helps students to practice
observing and using their eyes to
gather information.

