



Use this Learning Guide after viewing



What is Communication?

[www.bit.ly/competencyvideo2](http://www.bit.ly/competencyvideo2)

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- Think of a recent experience that demonstrated the value of communication skills. Drawing upon your own experience, why is the development of this competency important?
- How can a focus on communication help students achieve the learner outcomes? How might it apply and/or look different in your subject area and grade level?
- What strategies and approaches have you incorporated in your program to support student development of communication?
- What type of classroom environment supports communication?
- How might we adapt our practice to guide students with varying levels and expressive modalities to develop this competency?
- How might we lead students to approach this competency with a growth mindset, and learn to value the process, not just focus on the message?
- How might we model verbal, nonverbal and active listening behaviours, ways of thinking and communicative language in order to integrate this competency in our daily practice and help students practice metacognition?
- Brainstorm examples of what feedback would look like/sound like to foster student growth in communicative skills.

#### For more information:

[Co-Constructing Success Criteria](#),

Canadian Education Association

[What Great Listeners Actually Do](#)

Harvard Business Review

[Appendix: Protocols and Resources](#)

Expeditionary Learning

[Activities to Promote Interaction and Communication](#)

### Sample Strategies for Educators:

- Model and use communication skills, attitudes and vocabulary in your classroom.
- Develop a culture of trust, mutual respect, and open communication in the classroom.
- Help students identify the purpose of their message in relation to a specific audience, context or culture.
- Teach students how to engage in “active listening”, using skills such as asking questions for clarity, paraphrasing, gently challenging assumptions, engaging in dialogue, and ensuring the conversation flows smoothly in both directions.
- Aid students in understanding how people's values, experiences and culture influence the way they communicate and perceive messages.
- Provide time for students to reflect on and evaluate their growth related to communicating effectively.

### Sample Student Learning Tasks

- Paraphrasing
- Speak, write, draw and gesture ideas
- Share ideas for a different audience
- Listen or read for underlying messages
- Use language, symbols or gestures concisely
- Present in multiple forms
- Ask clarifying questions
- Identify the information gap
- Conversation grid
- Use technology to create and share ideas and acquire feedback
- Practice active listening