

Look,
Smile,

Chat.

Deaf awareness lesson plans for teachers

Exciting activities to use with your class

Look, Smile, Chat.

Introduction for teachers

These materials have been devised to be used with students aged 11–16 to raise awareness amongst hearing students of communication difficulties that deaf people may face in everyday life. They have been developed in consultation with deaf young people, who identified common problems they encountered and suggested what their hearing peers needed to know and understand to improve communication and inclusion.

It is hoped that the activities and resources will help hearing students relate to their deaf peers as teenagers with the same interests and issues as themselves. The message of the Look, Smile, Chat campaign launched by the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) should be positive and challenge stereotypes – deaf young people are not victims and should not have limited life choices. They are just as complicated, ambitious, talented, independent and clued-up as other teenagers. With only a little thought and awareness, everyday communication can be hugely improved.

The lesson plans are not intended to provide clinical explanations of the causes and types of deafness, but rather to focus on the impact of hearing loss on social interaction, to challenge preconceptions and to create awareness of effective ways to communicate. Resources are provided or signposted to support the lessons and extend knowledge.

The lesson plans address two themes: communication in everyday life and the different ways that people communicate with each other. Each offers a selection of activities as starters, main activities and plenary sessions which can be combined to form a lesson of about 50 minutes, or used over a series of shorter lessons, in tutorials or assemblies.

The lesson plans are of huge value to the school as a whole. Even if you have no deaf students, teachers and students alike will benefit in their everyday lives from a greater awareness of how to communicate with deaf people.



Notes for teachers are indicated by this notepad

Teachers of the Deaf

If you are a Teacher of the Deaf you may want to consider working with your colleagues to deliver the lesson plans to both deaf and hearing students. Thought will need to be given to how deaf and hearing students work through the activities. Some sensitivity may need to be exercised so as to not place unwanted focus on the deaf student. Alternatively, the deaf student/s may want to help lead some of the activities.

For more information on deafness and how to support the deaf student in your class, go to www.ndcs.org.uk.

The materials have been produced to support Deaf Awareness Week but they can be extended and used throughout the year in a variety of ways, such as:

- demonstrating how communication can become more effective with a variety of people and in different settings
- showing the films on information screens in reception or the hall, and in assembly to support a variety of themes linked to inclusion
- nominating lead people to share the films at school meetings, e.g. school council or governors' meetings
- inviting deaf adults to visit and talk about their lives, e.g. to support citizenship, careers, PSHE or history topics.

Students may feel intimidated by the idea of communicating with deaf young people. They may worry about not being able to use sign language and not understanding a deaf person's speech or may feel inhibited about speaking to someone who may not be able to hear them clearly. The Look, Smile Chat campaign instead focuses on looking at and engaging a person; smiling and including them in what is going on; and chatting about all the latest gossip! Importantly, this is a recipe for good communication with anyone, whether they are deaf or hearing.

The activities are designed to encourage students to research and contribute collaboratively, with an emphasis on learning rather than teaching, so it is important that all necessary resources and materials are prepared in advance.

Whilst there are links to the national curricula of the four UK countries, the plans are designed so that teachers can use their own judgement on how to best use them with students of different ages/abilities. They can also be used to address elements of a subject syllabus or in collaboration across subject areas for themed topics. It is likely that the lead subject area will be PSHE/Citizenship, but this is not a prerequisite for using the materials. National educational policies and frameworks may be revised and subject syllabi vary, so the materials should be used in the ways that best suit individual settings.

Resources – page 26 onwards

Films, posters and other resources from the Look, Smile, Chat campaign can be downloaded from www.buzz.org.uk/looksmilechat.

Look out for green circles which indicate resources



Watch our films at
www.buzz.org.uk/looksmilechat

Suggested curriculum area links

England

PSHE Association
Programmes of Study:
Core Theme 2 (Relationships);
Core Theme 3 (Living in the Wider World)

Northern Ireland

Key Stage 3 Learning for Life and Work, Developing Communication Skills

Key Stage 4 Learning for Life and Work, Personal Development

Scotland

Curriculum 3–15 Social Studies

Wales

Curriculum Cymreig (7–14)
Personal and Social Education

Wales, Europe and the World (14–19)
Personal and Social Education