Speaking and Listening – Level 1

Sample 1 Group discussion: How do we communicate?

Note: Students have been numbered left to right from 1 to 5.

TEACHER: How do people communicate?

STUDENT 4: By … by using … phones, talking, using their voice.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

STUDENT 4: And using messaging.

STUDENT 3: Sign language?

TEACHER: OK.

STUDENT 5: If they can’t hear, sometimes they use sign language or hearing aids.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

STUDENT 1: They could do messaging on their phone.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

Do we speak the same way to everyone?

STUDENTS: No.

TEACHER: Can you explain a bit more?

STUDENT 1: So, the reason why we can't explain to everyone, because if there was a person who came from a different country and we were talking to them, we wouldn’t understand what they were saying because they’re talking in a different language.

STUDENT 4: And … and it …

STUDENT 2: Um, well, if someone from Indonesia, like, came over, we wouldn’t, like, you couldn’t really know what they were saying unless they were saying, like, “hello” and … and then, like, counting up, because we know, like, it … those very well.

TEACHER: So how do you know those?

STUDENT 2: Um, like, you can … how in the Indonesian room, Ibu Rose and Ibu Hannah, they teach us Indonesian.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

STUDENT 4: Um, so, when you are talking with parents, you use more “please” manners, but when you’re talking with kids, you sort of go, “OK, I wanna play with you.” Like, someone asks, “Would you like to play with me?” and they’re like, “Yes!”

But then for parents, they ask, “Would you like to go and play?” and you’re like, “Yes, please.”

TEACHER: Does everybody speak the same language at home as at school?

STUDENTS: No.

STUDENT 3: No. Some people can be from different countries and they’ve moved to a different country and at home they can speak different languages so it’s a bit easier, because some people can’t … can’t speak English very much.

TEACHER: OK. What’s the difference between asking someone for something and telling them something?

STUDENT 4: Well, if you’re sort of asking someone, you’re like, “Can I please?”

But then when you’re telling them something, you’re like, “I …” Let’s say someone had a pet – you’re like, “I have a pet dog.”

TEACHER: So do we only use our voice to communicate?

STUDENT 5: Well, no. Sometimes we use computers or phones, like, to call people or send messages, because if they’re not calling and they’re not answering, you can send them a message and then they can get the answer later.

TEACHER: How do people … how could people communicate how they’re feeling?

STUDENT 5: Oh, well, their body language.

TEACHER: Talk a little bit more about that.

STUDENT 5: Like, if they’re frustrated, they … eyebrows are down sometimes.

TEACHER: Mm-hm.

STUDENT 5: Are they?

No. Are they?

STUDENTS: Yes.

STUDENT 3: Yeah.

STUDENT 5: Oh.

STUDENT 1: Um … Sometimes you can use emojis.

Like, so, if you, like … if you, like … if you send something really funny, you can just do, um … smiling and crying – you go like, “Oh!”

STUDENT 3: Like, funny crying.

TEACHER: So when might you use more formal speech?

STUDENT 3: When you’re speaking to your mum and dad.

TEACHER: Mm-hm. When else might you use more formal speech?

STUDENT 2: Like, probably when you’re talking to a grown-up.

STUDENT 4: When you’re talking to the office, because you don’t just wanna go, “I don’t have my parents here.” Or why …

You don’t wanna go, “Where are my parents?!”

You wanna go, “Will you please tell me where my parents are?”

TEACHER: OK. So, we use those manners that we talked about.