

Activity sheet 19: Communication

Sustainable development goals:

11: sustainable cities and communications

4: quality education for all

Communication is another one of those long words that grownups use, but what does it really mean? It often means that we talk to each other or let people know our feelings in some way. We can also communicate in many different ways these days – by telephone, internet, television and mobile phones.

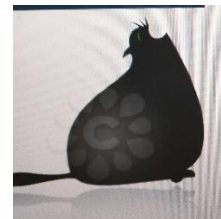
But let's start at the beginning! How do babies 'communicate'? I am sure you know the answer if you have a baby in your family! Babies cry if they are hungry or uncomfortable – or sometimes they just cry. They wave their arms and legs around and they smile. They let you know how they are feeling.



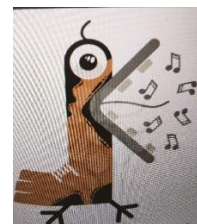
As babies grow they are able to 'communicate' in different ways: they point at something they might like or want. They grab at things and pull them towards themselves and they start to talk. Sometimes they get very cross because grown-ups don't understand what they want, or because they can't have something and they shout and cry.

As we get a bit older so we can talk more and explain what we really want – we are communicating!

Think about other animals – how do they communicate? Dogs and cats use their tails to show us they are happy or cross. They sometimes come up to us to be patted or stroked because they want something, perhaps some food or to go for a walk. They might bark or miaow to let you know their feelings. Or they may want you to follow them. Think about what animals do to get your attention, especially if you have a pet.



Birds sing outside to tell other birds that this is their space! If it is springtime they might be looking for a partner and will really sing loudly, sometimes a special song.



Dolphins and other sea creatures communicate with different noises. They can 'talk' to each other over long distances.

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How do you communicate? Do you talk, or point? Are you starting to read or write?



Do you smile when you are happy or have a grumpy face when you are not able to have something you want. Think about the ways that you can communicate your feelings and ideas. Do you laugh or cry? Can you tell a grown up how you are feeling? Perhaps get someone to write down how you 'communicate'.

Watch how your family communicate. Do they talk to each other, or smile? Get a grownup to write down what you see!

In the past before there were telephones or the internet people had to find different ways to communicate.



Indigenous peoples in America used smoke signals and sometimes beat drums to tell other groups.



In England we used to ring our church bells as a warning of a problem, as well as to let workers know it was dinnertime.

How do you communicate with your friends?

Can you find other ways that people communicated in the past? Get a grown up to help you. Some more ideas next sheet!

Denise April 2023