# Teaching Social Skills, Creating Successful Students
## Having a Conversation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Students will apply the skill of “Having a Conversation” to discuss academic content.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials Needed</td>
<td>A Small Ball</td>
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| Planned Teaching | • Ask students why it might be important to be able to have a conversation with another person. What can go wrong during a conversation? Does anyone have examples?  
• Tell them the steps of “having a conversation” and refer to your wall poster or write them on the board:  
  1. Look at the person  
  2. Use a pleasant voice.  
  3. Listen to what the other person says.  
  4. When there is a break in the conversation, ask a question or share your thoughts.  
• Show the short video about having a conversation: http://bit.do/BTConversation |
| Academic Content Lesson | • Tell students that they will practice having a conversation.  
• Give them a topic to discuss (their prior knowledge of a new content, reviewing previous content, or sharing opinions on academic content).  
• Let students know that they will say one or two sentences, pause, and then pass the ball to someone else. Then that person will say something- ask a question or share a thought.  
• Remind students that they are to use a pleasant voice, listen to what others say and to make sure that everyone gets a chance to talk. This is the whole point of having a conversation. So, for talkative students, they should make sure they are giving all students a chance to have the ball and share. And for quieter students, they should make sure they are sharing something.  
• Discuss with the class how they can use a pleasant voice and gently remind each other to include everyone and to encourage others to speak. |
| Assessment | This activity is informally assessed. If desired, students can earn a participation grade. |

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