# Code Switching

**Skill to Teach**

| Code switching | is the ability to alter behavior in socially acceptable ways to match the context, circumstances, and people you encounter in social situations. |

**Age**

| All Ages |

**Objective**

| Students will practice code switching by mocking various social situations. |

**Materials Needed**

- Social Skill posters
- Name tags

**Planned Teaching**

- Explain the concept of Code Switching to students.
- For older students you may be able to introduce the concepts of:
  - Generalization-Certain behaviors can be used in a number of different situations.
  - Discrimination-Certain behaviors may be appropriate in one situation, but not in another.
- Review the steps of 'Greeting Others'
  1. Look at the person.
  2. Use a pleasant voice.
  3. Say 'Hi' or 'Hello.'
- Remind students that these are the general steps you would use to greet someone. Ask “Is this how you’d greet your grandmother? How would that look different?”

**Practice**

- Tell students they will now practice code switching with the skill of ‘greeting others’. Now ask for 5 student volunteers. Hand out Nametags to 4 of the volunteers, the other student will be practicing greeting each person depending on what they have on their nametag.
- Ask the remaining students to watch the demonstration.
- Discuss each greeting and why behavior would change for that person. Discussion questions may include:
  - Why wouldn’t you hug a stranger that says “Hi” to you in the grocery store? Who might you hug when you see them?
  - Would you greet the Queen of England in the same way you greet your best friend? Why not?
  - Why is it important to ‘greet others’ in different ways?

**Further Learning**

- Each time you introduce a new skill have students practice Code Switching with that new skill.
- Use this activity with ‘hot issues’ or as problems arise, such as:
  - Teasing with friends vs. teasing kids you don’t know
  - Technology Use
  - Appropriate Language
  - Setting Boundaries

© 2015, Father Flanagan’s Boys Home
I’m your Grandma

I’m the Principal

I’m your Best Friend

I’m the President of the USA