SOCIAL THINKING

Part 7 - Session 22

Theme: Perspective Taking Reading Other People's Reactions

Aims:

- 1. For students to be aware that face to face communication starts non-verbally in two ways:
 - a. By looking towards a person,
 - b. By making a 'smart'/'educated' guess about what the other person might be thinking,
- 2. For students to be able to recognise the three symbols used in Chat Cartoons (speech bubble, thought bubble, interruption),
- 3. For students to be able to use Chat Cartoons to draw different social situations.
- 4. For students to be able to suggest what story characters are saying in given social contexts.
- 5. For students to be able to suggest what story characters might be thinking in given social contexts.

NB Comic Strip Conversations have been developed by Carol Gray. Chat Cartoons are a modification of her approach, created by Henrietta McLachlan and Liz Elks. They are usually used as a two-step process to discuss social situations that have gone wrong for a student. The situation is drawn out as it happened. A second drawing of the same context is then produced to indicate a more positive outcome. Different colours are also introduced to represent feelings.

In our Social Thinking sessions, we are going to use Chat Cartoons in a slightly different way, focusing upon representing different social situations with an emphasis on reading other people's reactions. There will only be one picture to represent each scene, and, at this point, no addition of colours to represent emotions. Instead, the focus is to help students think about reading other people's reactions.

Activity	Procedure	Equipment
Introduce topic as Reading Other	Start by reminding students about 'smart guesses' using the smart guess prompt card.	'Smart Guess' prompt card
People's Reactions	Explain to students that face-to-face conversation always starts non-verbally in two ways:	prompt data
	 By looking towards a person, By making a 'smart'/'educated' guess about what the other person might be thinking. 	
Chat Cartoons	Use the SaLT example of a social situation made into a Chat Cartoon to show the students how comic strip drawings can be used to depict an interaction. Point out the different symbols:	Completed example
	Speech bubbleThought bubbleInterruption	Chat Cartoon Conversation Symbols

Use the pictures of social situations. Talk about the context – where the people are, what they are doing and so on.

Next, draw out a Chat Cartoon of the interaction. Stick people are fine! Add speech and thought bubbles. Encourage the students to suggest what the characters are saying and thinking. This will be challenging for some of them. If students describe what is being said, encourage them to give actual dialogue e.g. "What are you doing here?" etc.

Pictures of social situations

Paper & pens

