

GOOD TALKING WORDS



Grades PreK–1

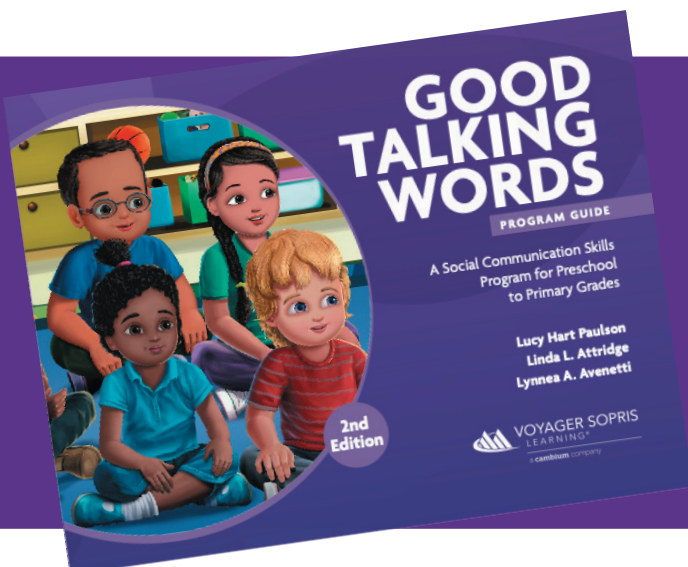
Develop Social Communication Skills For Children in Early Grades

Good Talking Words is an engaging and developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to help young children in preschool and the early grades develop effective social communication skills. It facilitates social-emotional learning (SEL) through lessons focused on progressively helping young children learn specific concepts, vocabulary, and the expected behaviors needed for successful communication and interactions with their peers and adults.

Social-emotional learning contributes to many positive aspects of academic and life success.

Social-emotional learning helps us:

- Understand and manage our emotions
- Build a sense of resilience
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Attend to feelings
- Set and achieve positive goals
- Make decisions



THE PROGRAM GOAL

To develop cooperative, prosocial behavior, and teach children the skills needed to initiate and respond in socially appropriate ways.

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Thoughtfully Designed Lessons

Good Talking Words provides a series of 10 engaging, playful, and developmentally appropriate lessons. *Good Talking Words* follows valuable learning principles based in cognition and brain research and delivers lessons in an intentional sequence.



The *Good Talking Words* lessons are multisensory and follow this format:

- 1. Introduction**—brief introduction of the target skill, an opportunity to see what children already know, and time to model expected behaviors.
- 2. Puppet Role Play**—playful vignettes to support learning and engage children.
- 3. Group Talk**—provides a platform to intentionally teach the important aspects of the target skill through discussion of the concepts, selected

Lessons 1-3 focus on foundational sensory perceptual skills (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic).

- Good Listening Bodies
- Good Looking Eyes
- Good Talking Bodies

Lessons 4-6 focus on personally responsible social communication skills.

- Good Manners Words
- Good Talking Voices
- Good Talking Rules

Lessons 7-9 focus on interaction skills using the foundation of the first six lessons.

- Good Turn-Taking Kids
- Good Sharing Kids
- Good Helping Kids

Lesson 10 culminates in problem solving, which requires an understanding of all the skills and concepts in the earlier lessons.

- Good Problem-Solvers

feeling word and skill-related vocabulary, and expected behaviors and scripts that may be used. *Good Talking Words* Picture Cards are used.

- 4. Storybook Connections**—many storybooks have themes that reflect social behavior and interactions. Story book recommendations are provided.
- 5. Wrap Up Discussion**—allows for review of the vocabulary and concepts with additional practice of the expected behavior of the target skill. The *Good Talking Words* Feeling Chart is used.
- 6. Carry Over in the Classroom**—each lesson has suggestions for classroom routines along with specially designed activities that may be used across days and weeks and throughout the year that provide opportunities for practice, reinforcement, and reteaching of the target skills.

Good Talking Words includes the GTW Social Communication Skills Assessment Checklist.

This checklist is used to help educators determine what children can do and at what level based on the learning stages of acquisition, maintenance, and generalization.



Ask the Author

Lucy Hart Paulson, Ed.D., CCC-SLP

Q: What will educators find most valuable about the *Good Talking Words* program?

A: *Good Talking Words* helps young children learn the expected prosocial behaviors that enhance their learning and creates a peaceful, learning classroom.

Q: Why did you decide to write this book? What need did you see that you wanted this book to fill?

A: The need for social communication skills continues to grow and teachers need a tool to intentionally help children learn the skills that will lead to school and life success.

Q: How do you recommend educators use this book in their work?

A: Educators can implement the lessons in *Good Talking Words* to help facilitate the classroom community and intentionally teach children the prosocial expected behaviors to interact with their peers and adults. They can then continue to reinforce children's learning throughout the rest of the year using the carryover activities.

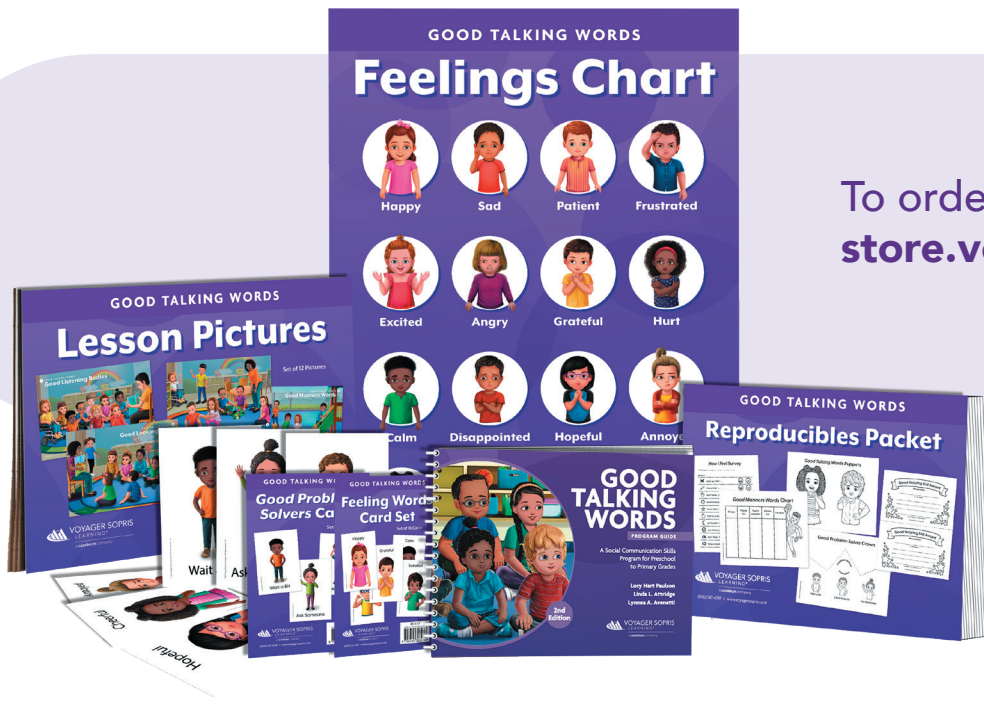
Q: How can educators apply what they learn in *Good Talking Words* with their students?

A: Educators can apply the lessons and ideas from *Good Talking Words* into their lesson plans to help them intentionally enrich their students' social communication skills.

Q: What is something you would want educators to know that this book isn't about?

A: *Good Talking Words* isn't about teaching isolated skills within particular developmental learning domains. It is about teaching interconnected and interdependent skills across learning domains to facilitate social communication skills needed for school and life success.

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Good Talking Words includes:

- Good Talking Words Program Guide
- Feelings Chart Poster
- Feelings Card Set
- Problem-Solving Card Set
- Reproducible Set
- Lesson Posters and Print Set