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Language Key to Identity

Our first language is a critical component of who we are and how we understand our world. This session will gift you with an immersive language activity designed to increase your sensitivity and awareness of the impact of one's language and our sense of belonging.

Importance of Language

- ❖ One of the elements that distinguish human beings from the rest of living beings is the ability to communicate in a systematized and understandable way, and that is using a language.
- ❖ The importance of language is vital for the human being since it allows him or her to establish communication with other living beings and thus live in a community.
- ❖ We need to acknowledge that to communicate appropriately with our words, gestures and tone according to each situation; talking to a child is not the same as talking to colleagues at work.
- ❖ Being able to communicate effectively with others helps us to form bonds, to live together and to work as a team. In short, communication governs our lives and makes us better.
- ❖ Language is a reflection of ourselves that allows us to be who we are and identify ourselves. What we say and how we say it reflects the values and experience of our own, our family and the community to which we belong.
- ❖ Our language is our essence, it is the external manifestation of our interior. Our thinking is broadly related to language; and both need each other to develop and analyze the processes that help us understand what surrounds us.
- ❖ Academics and linguists have tried to understand for centuries, the origins of why there are so many different languages in the world, without success, languages vary depending on each region, and there are differences marked by the culture of each society, it is known that there are 7000 languages spoken in different countries, and communities within regions within countries, all over the world.
- ❖ Language is an inseparable part of the culture of each community and country, Noam Chomsky, one of the most well-known linguists in the world, holds that all languages are dialects of human language. He assures that although they are apparently very different, in reality they are very similar; however, each culture has a specific way of using its language and those differences cannot be underestimated.
- ❖ Knowing more than one language sensitizes us to cultural differences and helps us appreciate diversity. In addition, the correct development of strong first language skills is a great asset that will allow us to develop effective communication skills in a second or more languages.

- ❖ Language conserves our culture which it passes to posterity. Language may be called culture-carrier. The culture that exists at a given time and place has come from the past and it is the result of the accumulation of things, attitudes, ideas, knowledge, error and prejudice.
- ❖ Language is not the creation of one person or of one period but it is an institution, on which hundreds of generations and countless individual workers have worked.
- ❖ Languages evolve and diversify over time, and the history of their evolution can be reconstructed by comparing modern languages to determine which traits their ancestral languages must have had in order for the later developmental stages to occur.
- ❖ The production of language is a continuous process; it varies in rate and kind with the circumstances and habits of the speaking community, but it never ceases; there was never a time when it was more truly going than at present.
- ❖ Language is one of the most marked, conspicuous, as well as fundamentally characteristic of the faculties of humankind.
- ❖ Language is a constituent element of civilization: therefore, the importance of language for man and society cannot be minimized. The importance of language is essential to every aspect and interaction in our everyday lives and for a wider society.
- ❖ If the human being does not have a language system then he or she could not put together projects in common with other individuals, which is precisely the essence of life in society or as a whole.
- ❖ The language is a complex system of both phonetic and written symbols that allows communicating ideas, thoughts, feelings and different situations between two or more people.
- ❖ To be able to communicate with a person from another country it is necessary to know the language or languages of that region, otherwise you cannot understand what is being said.
- ❖ In addition, there are other types of languages, for example that of deaf-mutes that is established on the basis of signs, the language of gestures that are common to all and that serve to convey ideas, feelings or sensations without resorting to the use of words, for example, when someone is happy and smiles.
- ❖ Language is the fundamental means of interaction with those around us, because through it we can express how we feel, what we need and answer our questions.
- ❖ The communication style also varies depending on the region of the world. In Western culture, for example, personal expression is valued, being direct and saying what you think. In contrast, some Asian cultures prefer an indirect style in which words like "maybe" and "perhaps" are more frequent than "yes" or "no".

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