

Voice Skills		
SKILLS TO TEACH	STRATEGIES	EVIDENCE OF MASTERY
Expressing own opinions	• Pose questions that require students to share their opinions. • Read stories where characters express different ideas.	Students are able to share opinions that are different from their peers. If they are asked to share their opinions or thoughts, students can articulate a reply without being afraid of whether they are right or wrong.
Listening to peers and teachers	• Ask students to repeat what peers shared during class discussions. Use this strategy as more of a game than a “got you”. • Let students know when it is their time to talk and when it is their time to listen.	Students demonstrate active listening by focusing on the person speaking and what is being said. Students wait to ask questions and do not interrupt the person who is speaking. Students can repeat directions and examples.
Understanding how characters use their voices in stories	• Compare characters in different stories and discuss how they do/do not use their voices. • Challenge students to use their voices in different situations.	Students can identify and discuss how characters use their voices. Students are able to understand that they, too, can use their voices to ensure their ideas and concerns are heard. Students can identify different types of voices.
Understanding different perspectives	• Use stories to demonstrate how a single situation can be interpreted in different ways. • Challenge students to think about how it feels to be on the other side of a situation.	Students are able to understand that peers may not think the same way as them. For example, one student may have fun playing football at recess while another may think it is boring.
Sharing on-topic comments and questions	• Be specific with your language. For example, instead of “Are there any questions?” ask “Are there any questions about [topic]?” • Challenge students to ask complete questions.	Students are able to ask complete questions related to the topic being discussed. Students’ comments relate to the topic and build off of other students’ ideas.
Collaborating with peers	• Develop assignments that require students to work together to solve the problem. Give everyone in the group one piece of the puzzle. • Assign students specific roles within a group.	Students are able to work for short periods of time with peers to complete an assignment. Students demonstrate the ability to listen to peers and wait patiently for their turn to participate.

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Debating	• Teach debating skills using online resources and videos. • Watch debates. • Organise grade-level debates.	Students take turns in debates and develop effective arguments. They are able to present their ideas in front of a small group of peers. Students treat each other in a respectful manner.
Partnering with teachers	• Develop projects that require students to partner with an adult. • Conduct student surveys and focus groups. Involve students in analysing the data and themes. • Invite students to share their ideas with teachers.	Students and adults collaboratively complete projects. Students regularly complete surveys about their perspectives of the school and help analyse results. Students respectfully provide teachers and peers with constructive feedback.
Advocating for oneself	• Have students identify their strengths and challenges as a learner. • Provide a variety of ways for students to ask for help. • Include students in parent conferences.	Students ask for help when they are struggling academically or socially. They approach different adults who can help them. Students self-reflect on their learning and can express how they can improve upon areas that are challenging for them.
Leading	• Provide students with choices in learning and homework. • Allow students to make meaningful decisions in the classroom. • Develop different leadership opportunities throughout the year.	Students feel confident in leadership roles, including making decisions and taking responsibility for their choices. Students are excited about leadership opportunities in the classroom and throughout the school.
Respecting and valuing different perspectives	• Assign students different perspectives when thinking through problems. • Read stories about students' lives from around the world.	Students seek opinions from others who are different from them. Students listen respectfully when peers express opinions they do not agree with. Students realise there is more than one way to view issues, assignments, and problems.
Expressing oneself	• Provide challenges that have no right or wrong answer. • Encourage students' expression through art, video, plays, etc.	Students articulate their ideas in more than words. Students demonstrate confidence when asking questions and answering their peers and teachers.

ACARA General Capabilities Voice Connections (Sample)

SKILLS TO TEACH	STRATEGIES	EVIDENCE OF MASTERY
Appreciate diverse perspectives		
Negotiate and resolve conflict		
Develop leadership skills		
Pose questions		
Seek solutions and put ideas into action		
Communicate across cultures		