

C O N F I D E N T
L I T T L E
S P E A K E R S

SPEECH ACADEMY ASIA
PRE-SCHOOL



SPEECH
Academy **asia**

THE BENEFITS OF MASTERING PUBLIC SPEAKING

Does public speaking still matter today?

As author and speaker Scott Berkun writes in his blog, "For all our tech, we're still very fond of the most low tech thing there is: a monologue" (Berkun, 2009). Public speaking is a fundamental life and career skill that no one can be without, no matter how technological means of communication advance in today's world.

1. DEVELOPS CONFIDENCE

Confidence is just like all other muscles, the more you practise, the stronger it gets! Therefore, the more you practise your public speaking skills, the better your oral communication skills will become. As your skills improve, you will start to feel more comfortable and empowered in your ability to speak well, further stretching you into the full and fearless parts of your character.

2. DEVELOPS PERSUASIVE SKILLS

Business leaders influence the people around them to enhance their own career prospects. Students persuade each other to work together on projects or for help on a task. Persuasion is in all aspects of our life. Therefore, by mastering persuasive speech, you will learn how to become more influential by overcoming skepticism and resistance!

3. DEVELOPS LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Leadership skills are relevant in all aspects of our lives, be it in school or at the workplace. Being able to communicate effectively not only aids a leader in bringing across messages in a clear and concise manner, but also inspires, persuades and provides assurance to the team. Therefore, the stronger your ability to build emotional intelligence (EQ) and relationships, the better you will emerge as a leader!



4. IMPROVES YOUR SOCIAL SKILLS

Communication skills are the key to forging friendships and building a strong social support network. It is also important academically, as many curriculum-based activities rely on working in groups and communication between peers. An effective communicator is able to portray his or her authenticity and connect with the audience, making them feel comfortable.

5. DEVELOPS CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Writing a speech requires a great deal of careful thought because besides having a meaningful message, a good speech must be tailored to fit the needs of your audience. As a critical thinker, you will be able to deduce consequences from what you know, learn how to make use of information to solve problems and how to seek relevant sources for information.

6. IT CREATES CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Interviews, be it Direct School Admission (DSA) interviews, or job interviews, usually require a presentation to the interview panel. Being able to speak well in front of others is critical to our success and it is what sets us apart from our peers. Furthermore, being a good public speaker can help you become a "thought leader". When you are perceived as a "thought leader", you become more highly sought after, which then again, contributes to your success both at work and in life.

THE LIMITATIONS OF NOT DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The ability to communicate effectively is a vital skill. The better we are at communicating, the better our quality of life will be. As children develop, it is important to nurture their communication skills so that they are capable of expressing themselves clearly and confidently in all aspects of their lives. Conversely, the lack of such stimulation can significantly hinder a child's development (Hart & Risley, 1995).

Here are the consequences children may face if they fail to develop effective communication skills.

4. POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

A child who is good at verbal communication often finds it easier to produce written communication, and thus will likely perform better in school exams and written assignments. Likewise, children with poor communication skills find it difficult to communicate in the classroom setting. Because of their hesitation, students often shut down, isolating themselves out of fear or embarrassment.

5. BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

Children who lack the vocabulary to express difficult emotions may have an increased risk of behavioural issues. For example, a frustrated child who can't communicate her frustration verbally may use force to defend herself and set boundaries with others, or use aggression to communicate frustration with learning new tasks, leading to excessive brawls!

6. LIMITED CAREER GROWTH

The lack of communication between different parties create distance, trust issues and emotional problems. Psychotherapist and child custody expert Dr. Peter Ernest Haiman even mentioned that effective communication between the primary caregiver and a child lays the foundation for future relationships and behaviours!



1. DETERIORATING RELATIONSHIPS

Effective communication strengthens the emotional bond between different parties, while a lack of communication can create distance, trust issues and emotional problems. Psychotherapist and child custody expert Dr. Peter Ernest Haiman even mentioned that effective communication between the primary caregiver and a child lays the foundation for future relationships and behaviours!

2. MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

When communication fails, especially with their loved ones, children can feel as though they lack guidance and support in their lives. This communication breakdown can lead to children developing low self-esteem and as a result, children will start to doubt their self-worth and abilities, further affecting their ability to reach their full potential.

3. ANXIETY

When someone lacks the ability to voice out their feelings, or is unable to effectively send a message across, anxiety builds. Poor social skills not only lead to depression and anxiety, but also negatively impact health, since people who suffer from these conditions often experience loneliness and stress.



OUR CURRICULUM



OUR CURRICULUM



JANUARY

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Develop awareness of internal emotions and understand emotions in others.

- Knowing your emotions
- Managing strong emotions
- Self-motivation
- Understand people's emotions
- Building your emotional strengths



FEBRUARY

VALUES

Learn important values such as honesty, compassion, courage and responsibility.

- Honesty
- The joy of learning
- The courage to speak up
- Helping others
- Forgiveness
- Saying sorry



MARCH

EXPRESSIONS

Learn how to reveal facial expressions and emotions to maintain relationships.

- Facial expressions
- Emotional expressions
- Revealing vulnerability
- Being real in front of others



JULY

STORYTELLING

Master the ability to bring a story to life and influence others.

- Adding suspense to stories
- Reading letters and words
- Memorising stories
- Role playing and narration



AUGUST

SOCIAL SKILLS

Master the ability to make friends and collaborate with others for success.

- The art of making friends
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Listening skills
- Good manners



SEPTEMBER

SELF-CONTROL

Learn delayed gratification to resist temptations and develop good habits.

- Manage impulses and temptations
- Self-discipline
- Respecting rules and authority
- Doing what is right and good



APRIL

FACING FEARS

Developing the habit to face fears and strengthen a courageous mindset.

- Develop inner courage
- How to deal with fear
- Understanding real versus imaginary fears
- Exposure to common fears



MAY

CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS

Learn how to start and maintain a meaningful conversation with others.

- How to engage others
- Understanding others
- Sustaining a conversation
- Mastering sentence structure



JUNE

STAGE PRESENCE

Learn how to garner attention and impress an audience.

- Confidence to be on stage
- Charisma
- Grooming
- Attention-capturing skills



OCTOBER

MODULATION

Improve voice tonality, loudness, pitch and clarity to have a beautiful voice.

- Speed variation from high to low
- Pace and pausing
- Pitch variations from high to low
- Voice force and clarity



NOVEMBER

BODY LANGUAGE

Learn to use proper body posture, eye contact and hand gestures when communicating.

- Eye contact
- Posture
- Hand gestures
- Feet placement



DECEMBER

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

Learn how to communicate and interact with others in a respectful way.

- Saying "Please" when asking
- Saying "Thank you" when receiving
- Not interrupting others when they are speaking
- Saying "Excuse me"
- Asking for permission
- Managing negative opinions

BEYOND SPEECH AND DRAMA

Public Speaking as well as Speech and Drama classes share many similarities, but they also have significant differences. The ability to present and communicate effectively is an important ingredient for success. Therefore, it is important for parents to be well-informed of the various classes available for their young ones prior to making potentially life-changing decisions.



	PUBLIC SPEAKING	SPEECH AND DRAMA
SPEECH VERSUS SCRIPT	Students in public speaking classes are taught how to deliver their speeches in an entertaining, effective, influential and charismatic manner. Students are taught how to write speeches on given topics in depth and at length.	Speech and Drama classes develop in children the art of performing. Courses in performance training include singing, dancing, acting and stage performances.
CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS	In order to write a powerful speech, an understanding and knowledge of the topic is necessary. Besides doing in-depth research about the topic, students also need to consider how they can tailor their message to different audiences. Hence, students develop creative and critical thinking skills as they master the art of communication!	As the word 'drama' in the name implies, theatre activities such as role playing and acting are carried out in these classes. Students in Speech and Drama classes get to play all sorts of different characters. All these roles allow them to show their individual interpretations of the characters, which encourages creativity.
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT	Public Speaking classes teach students the important aspects of character development, such as leadership and entrepreneurial skills. For instance, students learn how to communicate effectively and radiate their charisma like Barack Obama, or how to persuade and influence like Steve Jobs. All these life skills are relevant not only in the workforce, but also in schools and in all aspects of life.	However, most activities are artificial. The situations portrayed in the scripts are often dramatised and therefore, may potentially be irrelevant to the learner's need.
CONFIDENCE DEVELOPMENT	As a person's communication skills improve, his/her level of confidence increases as well. Therefore, as students master the art of public speaking, they will also start to feel increasingly empowered, further stretching them into the full and fearless parts of their character.	Speech and Drama classes provide students with hands on experience that is great for developing teamwork. However, due to the theatrical nature of the classes, students are often presented with limited opportunities to perform as individuals. As a result, these courses might not necessarily develop individual confidence.

MORE INFORMATION ON LEVELS 1, 2 AND 3

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LEVELS 1, 2 AND 3

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Teaching the fundamentals and building awareness in students.	Real-life application outside the classroom focusing on people skills and communication versus classroom-based learning.	Coach Development Program is aimed at achieving speech maturity and mastery in students.
Developing the courage to speak to a crowd and displaying the fundamentals of a good speech.	Courage is used as a stepping stone for students to achieve sociability that transcends into real life. Students will cultivate the habit and apply these skills in their own lives.	Courage is further enhanced along with other attributes such as improved teamwork, planning abilities and moderation skills.

PARENTS' TESTIMONIALS



“ Since my grandson attended the classes, he has become more confident. Now he is even willing to go on stage to give speeches to the public.

— Zachary Luo Parents



“ Since my child joined the classes, he has built confidence and learned a lot. He always talks about his teacher and he really enjoys the classes. I feel the classes here put him at an advantage. Now, he is more confident and not fearful of speaking to others.



“ My son is in the Speech Academy Asia pre-school programme. I feel this programme teaches him speaking abilities and how to approach strangers well. Now, he can communicate confidently with strangers. I think he will be thankful in future for the interpersonal and communication skills he has gained here.

— Aarav Roysarkar Parents