

School of Psychology and Neuroscience, and Department of Philosophy, University of St Andrews What Kind of Mind?

Activity 1: Communicate Without Words



Read your instruction and WITHOUT WORDS, try to get your partner to complete the task.

• Did they manage it?

• How did you communicate your instructions? Which gestures did you use?

• How easy or difficult was it to make yourself understood without using words?



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Activity 2 – after the video clip: Do chimps communicate?

What did you notice in the film?

Is chimpanzee communication like language? What is similar? What might be different?



Activity 3: Make Up Your Own Chimp Gesture

Time to make up your own chimp gesture. How would you use your body to signal these messages to other chimps in your group? Which gestures could be used to communicate the following?



- I am your friend.
- I don't like that food.
- I want to play.
- I am tired.

What is good about using gesture to communicate?

What is good about using language to communicate?

Which is more effective, do you think?



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For Activity 1: Notes to teacher – print this page and cut up the four instructions for different members of class to use in pairs.

- 1. Put the pen cup on top of the piece of paper. Put one pen in lid up, and one in lid down.
- 2. Put the piece of paper on top of the pen cup. Put 2 pens either side of the cup, with the lids facing away from you.
- 3. Put the piece of paper to the left of the cup. Put one pen under the paper, and one in the cup.
- 4. Roll the piece of paper into a tube, and put it in the cup. Put one pen inside the tube, and one next to it, in the cup.