

The background of the page features two black silhouettes of people's heads and shoulders, facing each other as if in conversation. The text is overlaid on this background.

Agree to Disagree

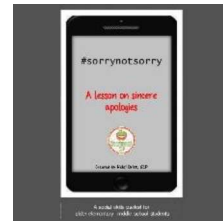
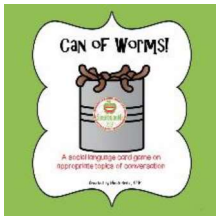
Social skill
activities for
conflict
resolution



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Agree to Disagree

In our culture, we see people disagreeing all the time. With social media, it seems that the loudest and most outrageous behaviors are often perceived as the “winner” in arguments. But is this true? Not at all.

When teaching students conflict resolution and how to work successfully in groups, explaining the art of “agreeing to disagree” is tricky. This skill requires us to be able to take another person’s point of view, even one we don’t agree with, and consider it.

Emotions often run high and make this a difficult task. The response to a disagreement can bring up feelings of anger and frustration, and can quickly escalate to yelling to prove a point. These negative feelings often take the place of discussion, and positive outcomes become really hard to reach when we let our feelings get the better of us.

So how do we agree to disagree respectfully? On the next few pages, you will find some teaching cards and activities to work on these skills. These activities are appropriate for late elementary through middle school ages, or students working at this cognitive level.



How to Use Agree to Disagree

On the next pages, you will find 20 different scenarios about spending time with other people in different settings, and resolving disagreements.

Ask your students to identify whether the people in the scenario resolved the disagreement with predictable or unpredictable choices. Your answer may change based on which person's point of view you are taking in the scenario!

Can they describe what strategies or reactions were used? Hint: use the red/green predictable/unpredictable pages for support.

If it's unpredictable, talk about how they could have made a more predictable choice.

Ask students to identify what the other people in the scenario might be thinking. Laminate and write in their thoughts inside the thought bubble.

Use the visual thermometer (laminated to use again) to identify what different people in the scenario might be feeling.



Extension activities:

As your students get better with identifying these skills, ask them to act out the scenarios or come up with their own. Blank template is included.

Watch short videos or TV clips and see if your students can identify predictable or unpredictable ways to resolve disagreements. Search popular kid shows on Youtube for great examples of predictable and unpredictable ways to disagree.

You can clip the videos and add your own questions using Playposit. I have an easy tutorial on my social language blog, [SmartmouthSLP](#), just click [here](#).

Have your students create a video to teach others how to *agree to disagree* in predictable ways. Add unpredictable ways for fun examples too.

A strategy template and a comic book page template are also included to work on problem solving and emotional regulation skills.

Create some group rules on how to disagree fairly and post in your room (blank template included).

Add your comic strip pictures to make a great bulletin board!



Agree to Disagree



Agree to Disagree

When we are around people, we may agree with some things that they say. We may also disagree with some things that they say. But did you know there is a right way and a wrong way to disagree?



Agree to Disagree

Part of living and working with other people is figuring out how to get along with each other. We can have different ideas and thoughts, but still get along. This requires us to listen to people who may not think like we think.

Agree to Disagree



This doesn't mean that you will change your mind, but it will give you more information to make good decisions about what you think or feel. Being able to listen to a thought or opinion that you do not agree with *respectfully* makes you a valuable part of a discussion or group!

Agree to Disagree



If you act disrespectfully or in unpredictable ways during a disagreement, other people will see you as immature or someone who does not want to be part of a team. For us to be successful in life, we have to figure out how to get along with other people.

Agree to Disagree



Some of the positive and **predictable** ways you can agree to disagree include listening to all the points of view in a discussion, being knowledgeable about a topic, getting more information from a reliable source, and staying calm in the moment.

Agree to Disagree



Some **unpredictable** ways to disagree include refusing to listen to a different point of view, yelling at the person who disagrees with you or not offering any opinion at all to avoid conflict.



Agree to Disagree

We are required to work with other people throughout our life. School, family, sports and work all will bring up discussions and points of view that we may not agree with completely. How you handle these disagreements will help other people form opinions about you.



Agree to Disagree

Learning about predictable and positive ways to have difficult discussions will help you be prepared to deal with disagreements in the moment without losing your cool. Self control is a valuable skill in life!



Agree to Disagree

On the next pages, you will learn all about predictable and unpredictable ways to work through disagreements. You will also get the chance to practice these skills and learn some strategies to help keep you calm and work well with others, even when you agree to disagree.



Agree to Disagree

Reactions to Disagreements

Name calling and losing self-control.

Attacking the character or authority of the person you disagree with.

Attacking the tone of the person arguing, not the facts of the argument.

Contradiction: stating the opposite opinion without offering facts or refusing to listen.

Unpredictable

SmartmouthSLP 2016 Agree to Disagree



Reactions to Disagreements

Self control and emotional regulation:

Stay calm and don't imitate escalating behaviors of others.

Developing Trust and Cooperation:

Treat the other people in the conversation as equal partners in a discussion.

Active Listening:

Listen to other people's point of view. When people feel heard, they are more willing to work together.

Collaboration:

Have a dialogue, not a negotiation. Work with others to find a common solution if possible.

Predictable



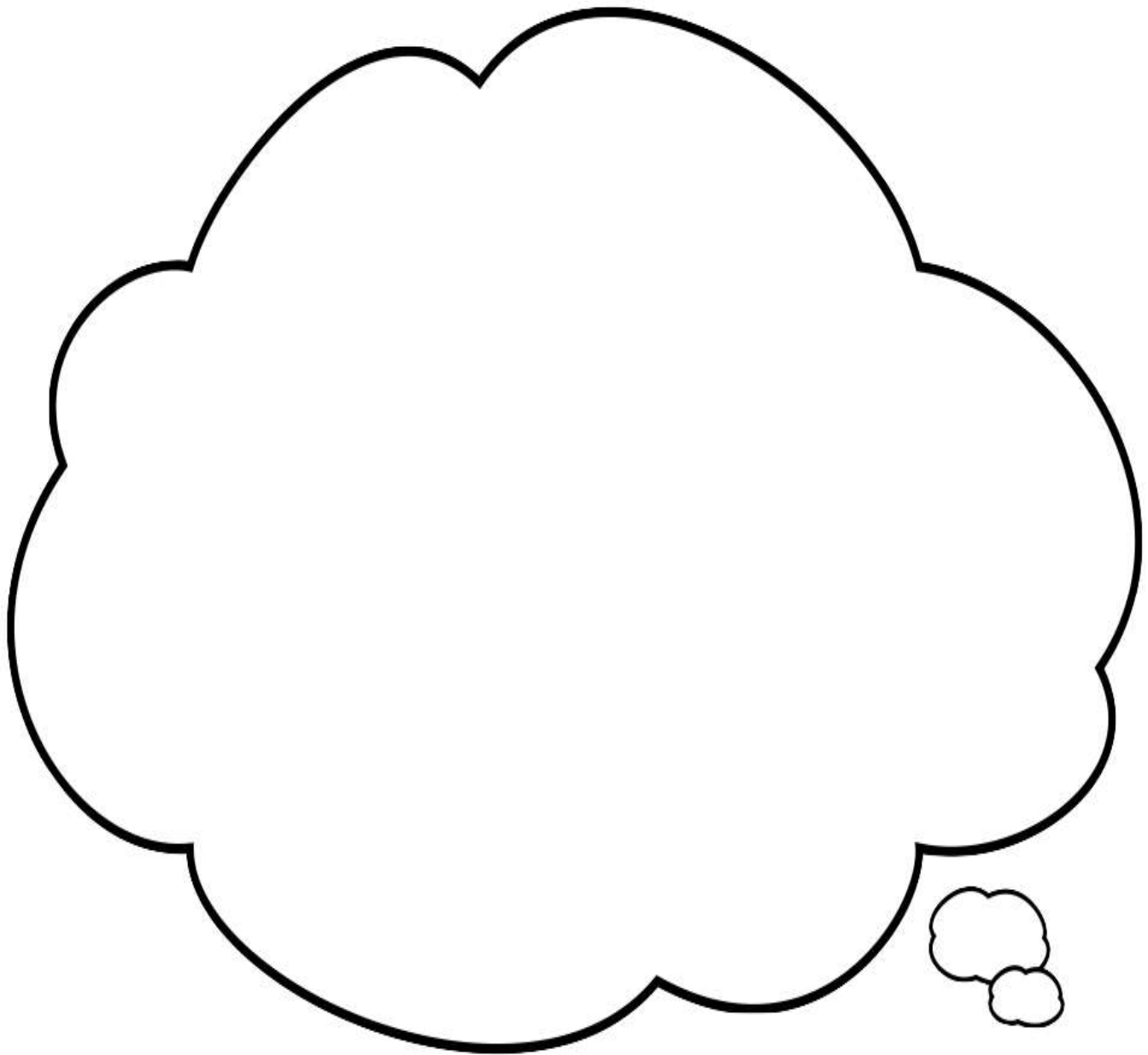


Predictable Reactions



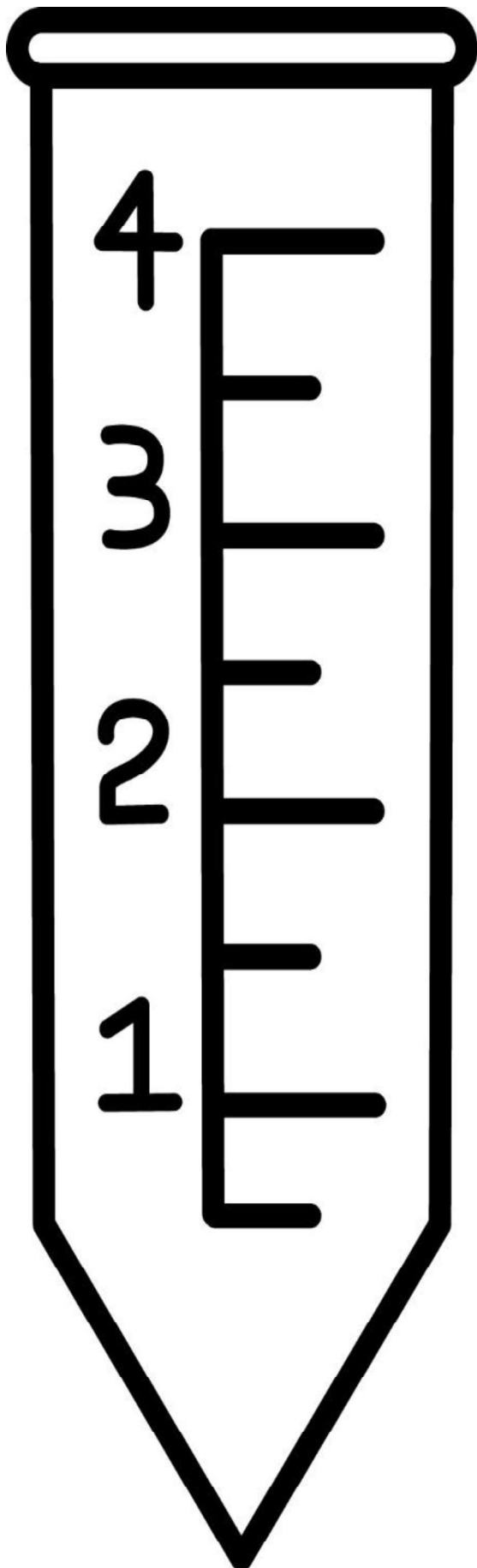
Unpredictable Reactions





**What are the people
in the scenario
thinking?**





4: angry, distraught,
disgusted

3: frustrated, irritated,
annoyed

2: sad, disappointed,
unhappy

1. comfortable, happy,
calm



Your group in science class is deciding which biome you will present on next week. You know a lot about the Aquatic biome, but the majority of your group wants to present on the Desert. You tell them there is no way they can know as much as you do, and they are going to look really stupid presenting on the Desert. You call your classmates “fools” and announce loudly that your group is going to fail if they don’t listen to you.

Your teacher sends you to the principal’s office.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it’s unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your mom says that you and your siblings have to decide on one place to go today. Your brothers want to go to the pool, but you want to go to the park today. Your brother explains that it's too hot for the park, and the pool would be a great place to cool off.

You dismiss him, telling him that he is whining and nothing he says is going to change your mind about going to the park. If you can't go to the park, you won't go anywhere.

Everyone has to stay home.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your sister has been looking forward to going to the movies all week. She insists that the movie comes out today, but you point out that you think it might be tomorrow. You suggest that she look online or call the theater, but she refuses. "You are wrong. You are always wrong. I know what I am talking about!" she says.

Your dad drives her to the theater, but the movie isn't playing.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your best friend is really into a new video game. He plays for hours and hours. You mention that he might want to study for the math test tomorrow, but he just stares at you. "I am much smarter than you are, I don't need to study" he says.

. "Besides, you are not the boss of me. Who do you think you are?" he shouts at you.

You take a deep breath, stay calm and go home to study.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your uncle is having dinner with your family. He starts arguing with your dad about who he is voting for in the next election. Your dad sits and listens, but he is getting really mad the more your uncle talks.

“You would have to be an idiot to vote for your candidate!” your uncle says to your father. Your dad slams his hands on the table and yells, “That’s it! Get out of my house.”

Dinner is ruined and everyone is upset.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it’s unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your family is planning a surprise party for your mom. Everyone has great ideas, and you each take turns listening to them. Your little brother wants to get her a hot air balloon, but you explain that it is too expensive. You ask if he could draw a picture of the hot air balloon for her instead? You suggest using balloons and his pictures to decorate for the party.

Your family agrees and starts planning a great surprise for your mom!

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your group is working on your debate topic in class. You notice that everyone has contributed to the ideas except for one girl. You ask her if she has any thoughts about the topic? She smiles and says yes, but they are opposite of what everyone else has said. "I didn't want to say anything because I know you all won't agree with me." she says quietly.

Everyone listens to her ideas, and although some don't agree, you consider her point of view as part of the group.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your dad has offered to take you and two of your friends to a concert this summer. He asks you all to decide on the concert by Saturday, so he can purchase the tickets. You excitedly talk to two of your friends about picking a concert when one of them says, "If she is going, I am not." Your other friend hears this, gets really angry and says, "Fine, then I am not going either!" You try to work it out with them, but neither one will change their minds.

You decide not to go to the concert at all since your friends won't go too.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your P.E. coach is talking about some of the greatest players in basketball history during class. He mentions a player that you don't like at all. You begin to argue with him and interrupt his teaching. "How could you possibly think that he is one of the greatest players in basketball history?" you shout. Your coach asks you to calm down. He tells you that it is not the time for this discussion but he would be happy to talk to you after class. You keep arguing and call him an "idiot" in front of the whole class.

Your coach calls your parents to tell them what happened.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your parents are talking about taking a trip to the beach this summer. You don't really like the beach and really want to go to a water park instead. You listen to all the details about the plan and then ask if there might be time for your family to go the waterpark on one day of your trip too? Your parents talk about it and tell you that while you can't go during this trip, the family will go before Labor Day.

You are okay with this, and try to make the best of your beach trip.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



You are with your mom shopping for new shoes. You really want the newest sneakers that you see on all the sports stars, but they are over one hundred dollars. Your mom tells you that is too expensive and to pick something else. "Please, please? Please, mom, I need these shoes!" you plead. She asks you to stop and pick another pair. You get really mad and tell her to forget it. You don't want a cruddy pair of shoes and tell her, "You are just being cheap."

You and your mom leave the store. You drive home in silence, without any shoes.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



You and your friends have started an Anime' club afterschool. You decide that you should be President of the club, but your friends think that everyone should vote. You disagree and tell them, "Nope, it was my idea, so I am the President. If you don't like it, you can leave." Your friends tell you that you are being a jerk, but you won't change your mind.

Everyone leaves and they decide to start their own club.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your friend starts hanging around with some new friends and not spending much time with you anymore. You call your friend to ask them to come over, but they say they are busy right now. You tell them if they are really your friend, they should drop what they are doing right now and come over. Your friend apologizes, but says he already has plans. He asks if you can do something together another day.

You tell him that he is a terrible friend and hang up on him.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



You have been researching which new laptop to get and ask your friends what they think about a certain model. One of your friends says, "It's not what I would pick, but it's not the worst choice." You frown and ask, "What does that even mean?!" She clarifies that your choice is okay, but she read that this model has a limited memory and runs really slow. You are surprised and tell her you didn't know that.

You thank her for sharing the information and make a different choice.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



You are planning on wearing your favorite green shirt for your class picture tomorrow. You mention it to your mom and ask her opinion. She smiles and says, "The green shirt isn't my favorite. Did you consider that new purple shirt? It looks much nicer on you!" You shake your head and tell your mom, "You have no idea what fashion is! Why did I even ask you?"

Your dad tells you not to speak to your mom that way and asks you to apologize.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



You want to try out for the baseball team this year. You played a little bit when you were younger, but never on a team. When you mention your idea to your best friend, he says, "Are you crazy? You will be terrible at it and embarrass yourself!" You feel upset and tell him, "You are just jealous because I am better at sports than you are!"

You refuse to talk to your friend when you see him in the hallway at school.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your class is playing soccer outside for fun. You shoot for the goal, and think it rolls in. The goalie and the other kids tell you that it was blocked. You argue that you saw it go in, and tell them that they are liars.

The goalie gets in your face and tells you that you couldn't see the goal and you are wrong. You get so frustrated that you start to shove the goalie arguing with you. Your teacher walks up and asks what's going on. You tell him the other kids are cheating.

You are told to sit out the rest of the game until you can calm down.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



You have been getting to know a new friend this year. You have a lot in common and enjoy hanging out together. You invite them to come to church with your family this weekend. They respond, "Uh, no way. Church isn't for me, it's all hocus pocus." You are surprised, and respond, "Wow. I didn't know you felt that way. I don't agree, but it's cool if you choose not to go. It would be great if you would respect my choices too."

Your friend apologizes and you start talking about your class project that's due next week.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



It's family night and you are all playing a card game. Your brother sees you sneaking a peek at his cards and calls you out on it. He gets really upset and announces, "You are cheating!" You start to laugh, deny cheating and tell him no one believes him. He gets even angrier and wipes all the cards off the table.

Your parents make you clean up the cards and send both of you to your rooms for the rest of the night.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Your teacher asks you to stay after class to talk about the failing grade on your report. She asks if you did your best work, because it doesn't appear that you did. You start to argue that it was her fault and the report was too hard, but you stop and think. You take a breath, and admit that you waited until the last minute to write the report. You know you could have done a better job and promise to work harder on the next project.

Your teacher tells you that she appreciates your honesty.

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Blank template to add your own scenarios

Is this a predictable or unpredictable way to disagree?

If it's unpredictable, what should they do differently?

What are the people in the scenario thinking?

What are the people in the scenario feeling?



Our Rules on How to Disagree



Draw or write in three strategies you can use. Keep in your agenda or on your desk to remind yourself.

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**3 strategies I can use to
stay calm when I
disagree with someone.**



SmartmouthSLP 2016 Agree to Disagree



Create and draw a comic about how to disagree
(it can be predictable OR unpredictable)

Topic:

The form consists of a large rectangular frame divided into four panels by a vertical line on the right and a horizontal line on the bottom. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the panels: one in the top-left panel and one in the bottom-right panel. The speech bubbles are empty, intended for the student to write dialogue.



Hi, I'm Heidi Britz, the SLP in SmartmouthSLP. I have been in the field for over twenty years and wouldn't have chosen any other job! I am a school based speech language pathologist with a passion for social language. I drank the *Social Thinking ® Kool-Aid ten years ago and never looked back!

I develop teaching and therapy materials for my fellow SLPs in my school district, and for my students. The products in my TPT store were created to help students of all ages develop the life skill of thinking of others.

*If you don't know what Social Thinking is, check it out at:
www.socialthinking.com

Thanks for purchasing my product!

