

March 24, 2025 - LeeCARES Training Net: Using Family Radio Service (FRS) Radios to Teach Kids

Presented by Jason Korb, KI5ABB

Using Family Radio Service (FRS) radios to teach kids about communication and radio technology can be a fun and educational experience. FRS radios are easy to use, require no license, and are a great way to introduce children to the world of radio communication.

Here's how you can use FRS radios to teach kids:

1. Basic Communication Skills:

- **"Hello" and "Goodbye":** Start with simple greetings and farewells to practice clear and concise communication.
- **"Call Sign" Practice:** Assign each child a unique call sign (e.g., "Red Team," "Blue Team") and have them use it when communicating.
- **"Listen First":** Emphasize the importance of listening before speaking to avoid interruptions.
- **"Repeat Back":** Have children repeat back what they hear to ensure understanding.
- **"Clear Communication":** Teach them to speak clearly and slowly, avoiding jargon or slang.

2. Radio Etiquette and Safety:

- **"Respectful Communication":**
Explain the importance of being polite and respectful when using the radios.
- **"Don't Use Emergency Codes for Fun":**
Explain that emergency codes like "Mayday" are for serious situations only and should not be used for fun.
- **"Radio Range":**
Demonstrate the limitations of the radio's range and how terrain and obstacles can affect communication.
- **"Battery Life":**
Teach children to conserve battery life by not leaving the radios on unnecessarily.

3. Games and Activities:

- **"Hide and Seek":**
Use the radios to communicate locations and find each other during a game of hide-and-seek.
- **"Radio Treasure Hunt":**
Hide clues around the yard or park and have the children use the radios to communicate their findings.
- **"Radio Relay Race":**
Divide into teams and have them use the radios to relay messages or instructions during a race.
- **"Radio Scavenger Hunt":**
Create a list of items for the kids to find and use the radios to communicate their findings.

4. Learning about Radio Technology:

- **"How Radios Work":**
Explain the basic principles of radio communication, including transmitting and receiving signals.
- **"Radio Frequencies":**
Introduce the concept of radio frequencies and how they are used to transmit signals.

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- **"Antennas":**
Discuss the role of antennas in transmitting and receiving signals.
- **"Radio Interference":**
Explain how radio interference can affect communication and how to avoid it.

5. Additional Tips:

- **"Start Simple":**
Begin with basic communication and gradually introduce more complex concepts and activities.
- **"Make it Fun":**
Keep the activities engaging and enjoyable to maintain the children's interest.
- **"Supervise Closely":**
Always supervise children when they are using the radios, especially in outdoor settings.
- **"Choose the Right Radios":**
Select FRS radios that are designed for children and are easy to use.
- **"Consider GMRS Radios":**
If you need more range, consider GMRS radios, but remember that they require a license.