

behavior skill toolkit

SOCIAL SKILLS:

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

TIER 2/TIER 3
BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION



You know those students who struggle with thinking before they speak because they are missing the skill of considering what they say?

This is the support for them!

It works by developing two things:

Skill Acquisition = Students learning and understanding skills

Skill Fluency = Students actually using the skills consistently at the right time and place



how do I use this?

- **Example 1:** A student is having some struggles, and you think early intervention might help them get back on track.
- **Example 2:** A student needs more frequent intervention and support, so you use these activities for 15-minute sessions 2-5 days/week.
- **Example 3:** You think a student would be a great candidate for Check In/Check Out or Self-Monitoring, but you want to make sure they really understand the skill(s) first.
- **Example 4:** When a student is sent to the office, is in in-school suspension, etc., and you want to provide a proactive response. Identify the skill(s) that would have helped them meet expectations and choose one or more activities for that skill.

part 1: teach the skill

Teach and model the skill using one of the two instructional tools included:

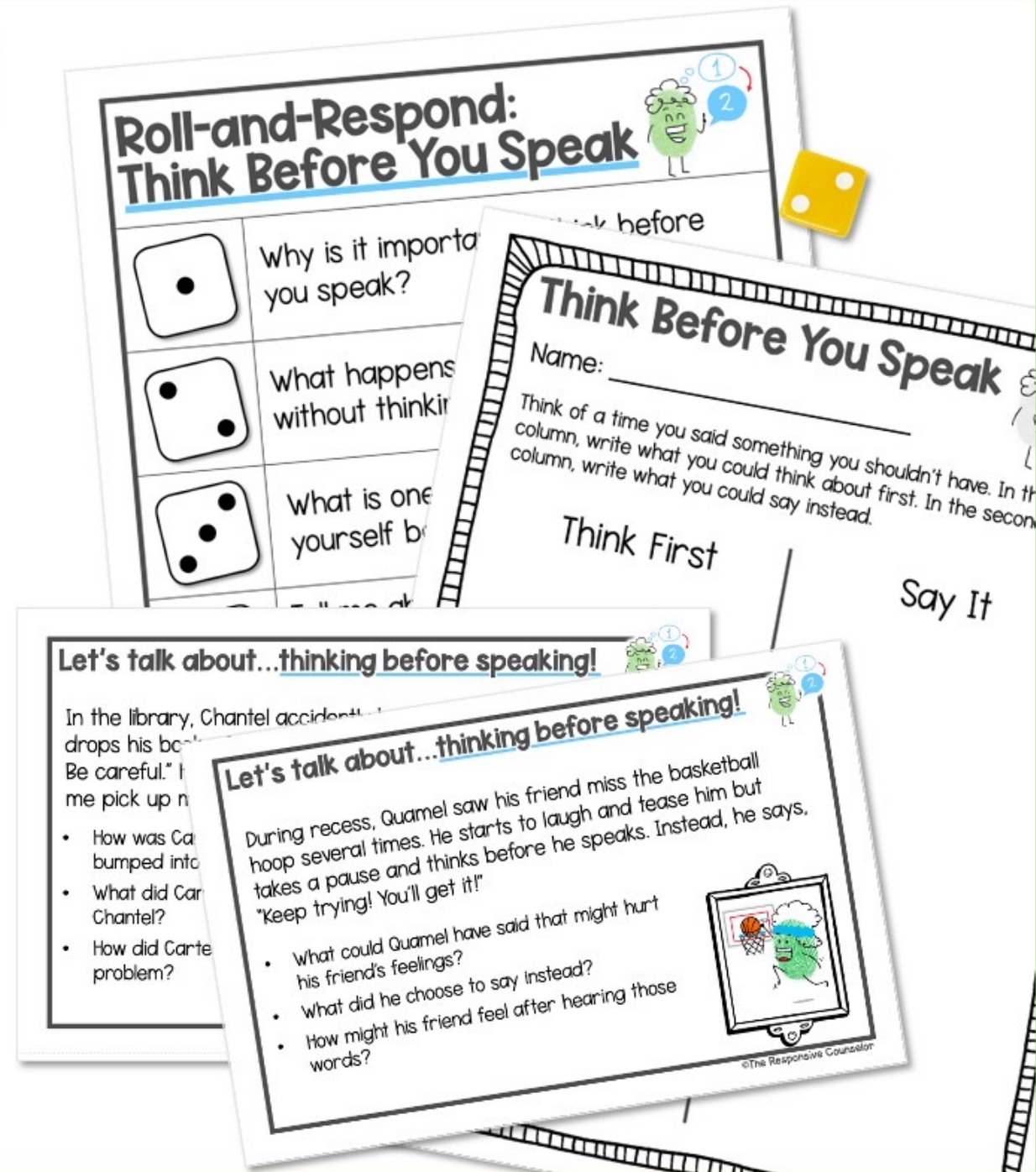
- Definition and How-To Page (developed with 2-5 in mind)
- Social Narrative (developed with K-2 in mind)



part 1: teach the skill

Check for understanding and begin processing and reflecting on the skill through activities like:

- Roll and Respond Prompts
- Example Scenarios and Discussion Questions
- Anchor Chart



part 2: practice and rehearse the skill

Give students the opportunity to practice and rehearse the skill with application-based worksheets and task cards.

Worksheet titled "Thinks Before Speaking" with a cartoon character thinking. The worksheet includes a name line, a title, and instructions: "Think of a situation where someone really wants to share something funny. Draw a three-part comic showing how the character pauses and thinks before sharing what they want to say." Below the instructions are three empty boxes for drawing a comic, with a pencil icon in the middle box.



part 3: reinforce and generalize the skill

Generalize the skill through an action plan, and reinforce the skill through:

- Student Desk Reminder
- Faculty/Staff Lanyard Card
- Positive Reinforcement and/or Data Tracking Pages



Behavior Data Check

	First Block
Thinking Before Speaking	  

☺ = Successful

Name: _____

I can think before I speak when I have something I want to say.

When I fill in _____ boxes, I earn _____.

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questions & answers

Who is this for?

- These activities are for students whose behavior concerns seem to be due to them lacking key social, emotional, and behavioral skills.
- They are *not* the best fit for students whose behavior struggles are due more primarily to needing connection, competence and control, or motivation for change.

How can this be tier 2 OR tier 3?

If you're using this resource in a small group, or individually very short-term, then this is a tier 2 intervention.

If you're using this resource for more long-term work with an individual, or in addition to one more other interventions, it's likely more of a tier 3 intervention.

Hi, I'm Sara! At The Responsive Counselor, we create resources for school counselors, child therapists, and teachers that improve social emotional learning and help students be their best selves.

Our focus is creating resources that are effective (using research-based best practices) and engaging (through collaborative learning and relevant scenarios) for students.

education

B.A. from Michigan State University

Psychology and Anthropology

M.S. from Vanderbilt University

Community, Research, and Action

M.Ed. From Vanderbilt University

Human Development Counseling:
School Counseling & Mental
Health

experience

I'm a former school counselor from a large southeastern school district with a wonderfully diverse group of students. I created and implemented a data-based comprehensive school counseling program while helping classroom teachers and administrators implement schoolwide SEL and restorative practices. Now, I share my ideas and resources to reach students and help educators across the world!



the
responsive
counselor

let's connect:

