

How to teach any social communication skill you like, right across the curriculum

Teachers want to help

It's natural for teachers to want to make sure their students have all the strategies and skills they need to:

- Refuse a lift with a drunk driver, or anyone they don't want to go with - and do so even when high-spirited friends are willing to take the chance and are telling them to jump in;
- Refuse the offer of a drink - even when others are encouraging them to let loose;
- Say 'no' to sexual harassment - even when others think the harassment is nothing more than just a bit of harmless fun; and
- Much, much more.

The problem is that teachers are quite aware of the shortcomings of traditional types of role-plays, and they either use them, despite their concerns, or shy away from them altogether.

Teachers want, and deserve, something better. The answer is Real Life Rehearsals.

Real Life Rehearsals

For over 30 years, Mark McPherson has been using advanced role-play techniques - as a classroom teacher, as an educator and manager in the drug and alcohol field, and in Health and Police. Real Life Rehearsals is the culmination.

Real Life Rehearsals is a two part teaching activity. Part 1 is the Real Life Rehearsals Obstacle Course which culminates in students having a repertoire of realistic and personalized strategies to deal with a Real Life Scenario.

Part 2 is Agent Provocateur Role-Plays where the students, in a simulated real-world environment, practice their preferred strategies 'under fire'. With feedback and guidance, they develop the social communication skills they need to deliver their strategies in the real world - where it counts!

Mark is now offering one day workshops (9am - 3pm) for teachers on how to use Real Life Rehearsals to teach any social communication skill they like, right across the curriculum.

Check out Mark's website for details.

One-day workshops

Mark's workshops are participatory and experiential. He is engaging, entertaining and informative. In these workshops

teachers will learn how to deliver both parts of Real Life Rehearsals using a variety of dilemmas and problem situations, and in particular how to:

- Gather Real Life Scenarios.
- Set the scene.
- Deliver scenarios so they are engaging and believable.
- Engage students in the Real Life Rehearsals obstacle course.
- Choose obstacles which are realistic.
- Help students develop strategies that are realistic and then personalize them so they fit their personality and culture.
- Help students develop contingency plans.
- Use A.D.A.P.T.
- Engage students in one-on-one role-plays.
- Use Agent Provocateur Role-Plays with twists, turns and the unexpected - just like real life!
- Decide when to back-off and when to go 'full steam ahead'.
- Make contracts with students and frame activities.
- Go into, and out of, role.
- Use freeze frames and time outs.
- and more.

Who is Mark McPherson?

Mark has been a teacher (Personal Development, Health, Science), Senior Education Officer (Family Planning Association; Drug and Alcohol Studies, TAFE; PDHPE, Board of Studies; Infection Control, Health Promotion, Health), lecturer (Health Education, Teaching Methods), research officer, and manager and team leader (Drug & Alcohol, Public Health and Health Promotion; Drug Programs Coordination Unit and Principal Policy Adviser, NSW Police).

Contact **Mark McPherson** today to find out when and where Real Life Rehearsals workshops are being conducted.

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