# Program Information

## Lesson:

### *Employability Skills: Interpersonal Skills*

## Training:

## Premises Cabling

## Time frame:

### 60 minutes

# Instruction Section

## Learning Objectives:

# Develop effective teamwork skills by learning the principles of teamwork, collaboration, and communication within a cabling technician team.

# Enhance interpersonal communication skills by practicing active listening, conflict resolution, and empathy in various scenarios, preparing participants to interact effectively with colleagues and customers in a professional manner.

# Improve customer interaction and problem-solving skills by engaging in role-plays and discussions focused on responding to customer needs, understanding customer perspectives, and delivering solutions that meet customer expectations in the context of cabling projects.

## Assessment Tools/Methods:

# Observe participants' engagement, participation, and interactions during group discussions, role-plays, and activities. Take note of their communication styles, problem-solving approaches, and teamwork dynamics.

# Provide verbal or written feedback to individual participants or groups, highlighting strengths, areas for improvement, and specific examples of effective interpersonal skills demonstrated during the lesson.

## Learner Prior Knowledge:

# Cabling Terminology: Participants should be familiar with common cabling terminology, such as Ethernet cables, fiber optics, connectors (e.g., RJ45), patch panels, and cable management.

# Networking Fundamentals: A basic understanding of networking concepts, such as IP addressing, subnetting, LANs (Local Area Networks), and WANs (Wide Area Networks), would aid in contextualizing discussions related to cabling infrastructure.

# Technical Tools and Equipment: Participants should have familiarity with common tools and equipment used in cabling installations, such as cable testers, crimping tools, cable strippers, and punch-down tools.

## Instructional Activities:

# Begin by introducing the topic of interpersonal skills in a premises cabling technician role.

# Explain the importance of these skills for success in the field, including teamwork, collaboration with colleagues, and effective communication with customers.

# Activity 1: Understanding Teamwork:

# Have participants create a definition for teamwork. Discuss the importance of teamwork in a technical environment like premises cabling.

# Discuss the roles and responsibilities of team members in a cabling project with the group.

# Present the Teamwork Scenario Handout to the group, explaining that these scenarios highlight the importance of effective teamwork in a premises cabling technician role.

# Allow participants time to work in small groups to consider answers for how to best use teamwork in the scenario situations.

# Facilitate a discussion on strategies for effective collaboration within a team, including communication, task allocation, and problem-solving as they relate to the scenarios.

# Activity 2: Working with Others:

# Hold a short group discussion that explores different interpersonal skills needed when working with colleagues, such as active listening, conflict resolution, and empathy.

# Discuss the importance of effective communication in team settings for cabling technicians as a whole group discussion.

# Pose questions to the group, such as:

# What are the key components of effective communication within a team of cabling technicians?

# How can active listening improve collaboration and problem-solving in team projects?

# What strategies can be used to ensure clear and concise communication when working on complex cabling tasks?

# How do you provide constructive feedback to team members without causing conflicts?

# In what ways can communication styles be adjusted to accommodate diverse team dynamics and personalities?

# Encourage participants to share their experiences, insights, and best practices related to effective communication in team settings.

# Facilitate a dialogue where participants can learn from each other's perspectives and brainstorm strategies for enhancing communication skills in their roles.

# Activity 3: Responding to Customer Needs

# Discuss the importance of customer interaction and satisfaction in a cabling technician role.

# Present a basic scenario where a cabling technician team is assigned to resolve a customer's networking issues in a business environment. The customer is experiencing connectivity problems and is dissatisfied with the network performance.

# Describe the customer's concerns, the technical challenges involved, and the urgency of resolving the issues to meet customer expectations.

# Divide participants into groups, assigning roles such as cabling technicians and the customer.

# Provide background information and instructions for the role-play scenario. The technicians must interact with the customer, gather information about the network problems, address the customer's concerns, and propose solutions.

# Emphasize the importance of active listening, empathy, problem-solving, and professional communication during the role-play.

# Encourage participants to immerse themselves in their roles, applying effective communication and problem-solving skills to address the customer's needs and concerns.

# The cabling technicians should ask relevant questions to understand the scope of the problem, troubleshoot effectively, propose potential solutions, and address the customer's expectations and feedback.

# After the role-plays, facilitate a feedback session where participants reflect on their experiences and receive feedback from peers or facilitators

# Activity 4: Conclusion:

# Summarize key points from the lesson, emphasizing the importance of interpersonal skills in a premises cabling technician role.

# Encourage participants to reflect on how they can apply the skills and strategies learned in their roles as cabling technicians when interacting with customers, troubleshooting technical issues, and delivering effective solutions.

##  Resources:

# Whiteboard and markers

# Teamwork Scenario Handout

# Teamwork Scenario Instructor Key

*Note: AI, specifically ChatGPT 3.5, was used to generate scenarios for this contextualized lesson plan.*

# Reflection Section

# Ask participants to self-assess their interpersonal skills development before and after the lesson using a self-evaluation questionnaire or reflection journal.

# Encourage participants to reflect on their learning experiences, identify areas of growth, and set personal goals for further improving their interpersonal skills in their roles as cabling technicians.

**Teamwork Scenario Handout**

**Scenario 1:** Large-Scale Installation Project

*Case Study*: A company has been contracted to install cabling infrastructure for a new office building. The project involves multiple teams, including cabling technicians, network engineers, and project managers.

*Scenario*: During the installation process, unexpected challenges arise, such as equipment delays, changes in project scope, and tight deadlines. Each team member must collaborate effectively to overcome these challenges and ensure the project's success.

*Discussion Points*: Emphasize the need for clear communication, coordination, and problem-solving among team members. Discuss how teamwork can lead to efficient problem resolution and project completion.

**Scenario 2**: Emergency Maintenance

*Case Study*: A critical network outage occurs in a corporate office due to a cabling issue. The cabling technician team is called in for emergency maintenance to restore connectivity.

*Scenario*: The technicians must work together under pressure to diagnose and fix the cabling problem promptly. They need to communicate effectively, prioritize tasks, and support each other to minimize downtime and customer impact.

*Discussion Points*: Highlight the importance of teamwork in crisis situations, emphasizing quick decision-making, delegation of tasks, and mutual support among team members.

**Scenario 3**: Collaborative Project with External Contractors

*Case Study*: A cabling company collaborates with external contractors (e.g., electricians, HVAC technicians) on a large-scale project involving cabling installations in a commercial building.

*Scenario*: The project requires close coordination and collaboration between the cabling team and external contractors to ensure that installations meet safety standards, regulations, and project timelines.

*Discussion Points*: Discuss the challenges and benefits of working with external teams, such as different expertise areas, communication protocols, and conflict resolution strategies. Highlight the importance of effective teamwork across organizational boundaries.

**Scenario 4**: Team Building Exercise

*Case Study*: A cabling company organizes a team building exercise for its technicians to enhance collaboration and teamwork skills.

*Scenario*: The team building activity could involve a problem-solving challenge, a collaborative project, or a simulation of a cabling installation scenario. Participants work together to achieve a common goal while overcoming obstacles.

*Discussion Points*: Reflect on the team building experience, discussing key takeaways such as improved communication, trust-building, and understanding of team dynamics. Relate these lessons to real-world teamwork scenarios in cabling projects.

**Teamwork Scenario Instructor Key**

The following are basic examples to demonstrate how participants can reflect on the scenarios presented in Part 1 and highlight key teamwork principles such as communication, coordination, problem-solving, and leveraging team strengths. Encourage participants to provide specific examples from their own experiences or relate the scenarios to real-world teamwork situations they have encountered.

**Scenario 1**: Large-Scale Installation Project

*Answer*: "In this scenario, effective teamwork played a crucial role in overcoming challenges during the installation project. Clear communication channels were established among team members, allowing us to quickly address equipment delays and changes in project scope. Team collaboration enabled us to allocate resources efficiently, prioritize tasks, and meet tight deadlines. Overall, our coordinated efforts and problem-solving skills contributed to the successful completion of the project within budget and timeline."

**Scenario 2**: Emergency Maintenance

*Answer*: "During the emergency maintenance, teamwork was essential in resolving the network outage promptly. We communicated effectively to diagnose the cabling issue and implemented a coordinated plan to restore connectivity. Each team member contributed their expertise, and we worked together under pressure to minimize downtime and customer impact. Our ability to collaborate efficiently ensured that the network was back up and running smoothly, maintaining customer satisfaction."

**Scenario 3**: Collaborative Project with External Contractors

*Answer*: "Collaborating with external contractors posed challenges, but effective teamwork helped us navigate the project successfully. We established clear communication channels and aligned our goals and timelines with the external teams. Collaborative planning and coordination ensured that installations met safety standards and project requirements. Despite differences in expertise areas, we leveraged our teamwork skills to overcome obstacles and deliver high-quality results."

**Scenario 4**: Team Building Exercise

*Answer*: "The team building exercise enhanced our collaboration and teamwork skills significantly. We learned the importance of communication, trust-building, and leveraging each other's strengths. The problem-solving challenges allowed us to practice effective decision-making and coordination. As a result, we gained a deeper understanding of team dynamics and improved our ability to work together cohesively on cabling projects."