

ACTIVE LISTENING LESSON PLAN

Created for use in your classroom after seeing *No Talking*

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Standard:

Meets K-5 CCR Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening in KS and MO SL.K-5.4 (tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner using descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace)

Student Objectives:

1. Students will recognize, compare, and directly apply concepts of both active and distracted listening skills in individual conversations with other students.
2. Students will build a collaborative story with peers, by listening and responding with one another.

Assessments:

1. Demonstration: Students will demonstrate active listening while interacting with their peers and their active listening will improve in small group work as the activity progresses. Students will demonstrate and utilize active listening skills while collaboratively telling a story by building off one another's ideas.
2. Collaborative Discussion

Lesson:

Warm-Up Activities

- Active Listening
 - Divide the students into two groups.
 - Instruct the first group to think of a happy or funny memory or experience that in a minute they can share with a peer. While giving them a moment to think, give the second group printed instructions or write instructions on a board only they can see. Instruct them to show distracted listening when the other group tries to share their stories. Give them hints as to what that looks like—no eye contact, talking with someone else, fiddling with something else, asking irrelevant questions, etc. Until the teacher calls “active listening,” then students must display better listening skills—eye contact, body posture, rephrasing, asking relevant questions, empathizing, etc.

- Assign each member of the first group a partner from the second group.. Group one then shares their story with their partners while they are listening distractedly.
 - Let the students interact.
- Call “active listening!” and make sure that all students in the second group are now using active listening skills.
 - Let the students interact.
- Discuss
 - What it was like at first when their partner was distracted while listening to them?
 - How did it feel?
 - Did it make you hesitant to share or more willing?
 - What changed when the teacher said “active listening?”
 - How did it feel different than before?
 - Did it make you hesitant to share or more willing?
 - Why is it important to be a good listener?

Building Activities

- “Yes And...” *Story Telling*
 - Divide students into groups of three-four. One group at a time will stand in a line while the rest of the class sits and watches.
 - The first student in the group will begin a story by telling their group only the first sentence, then next student will continue it by saying, “yes and...” then adding their own sentence to the story. This continues down the line and back to the front until the end of their story (Encourage stories to build off one another’s ideas through careful listening and not to disregard what has already been said).
 - Once their story has ended, have another group act out the story that was just told (you may give students a moment to converse about who will be which roles). Encourage them to try to include as many details as they can, trying to remember everything that happened.
 - Give each group a turn to tell a story and act one out.

Wrap-up

- *Collaborative Discussion:*
 - What made the stories more fun and interesting?
 - Did some of the stories appear to be more or less successful?
 - What was different about them from the others?
 - What happens when people ignore what others said?
 - Does the story make sense when that happens?
 - Why was it important that the students in each group listened to each other?
 - What strategies did you use that were helpful to listen actively and remember details?