

Cool Tools

North Tonawanda Middle School

Teaching Importance of Being an Active Listener

School-wide Expectation:	Respect
Name of Skill:	Be an active listener
Setting:	Classroom

Purpose of lesson/why it is important:

- 1) To increase students' on task behavior.
- 2) To teach behaviors that will transfer to the work place.

Teaching Examples:

- 1) You and your friend are discussing what you are going to do after school and not paying attention. The teacher has continued teaching and the next thing you hear is, "Take out a piece of paper for the pop quiz on what we just discussed." You really need a good grade and now wish you had been paying attention.
- 2) A friend tries to talk to you while the teacher is explaining the details of a big project. You quietly say, "I need to pay attention right now. We'll talk during lunch." You raise your hand and ask the teacher to clarify the due dates for the rough draft and the final project.
- 3) Your teacher is explaining what to do and where to go when there is a fire drill. You and your friends are talking about a party you went to over the weekend and didn't the directions. Later on during class, the alarm goes off and you are in the rest room and you don't know where your class went. The principal and the fire captain see you wandering around the halls and you get suspended for not follow the correct procedures.

Kid Activities/Role Plays:

- 1) Ask students to role-play their own examples showing following directions and/or asking clarifying questions. Have them show ways they can get classmates to stop distracting them and pay attention to the teacher.
- 2) Have students work in small groups to develop a list of consequences that may occur if they didn't listen carefully to instructions in all settings (i.e. job, home, classroom, gym, cafeteria, bus, etc.).

- 3) Ask students to imagine they are bosses and one of their employees continually does not follow the procedures for the job. Have them discuss questions such as: What would you do with the employee? How would that behavior affect the employee's reviews and raises? How would that employee's behavior affect the other employees?

Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:

- 1) Offer continuous praise for students who are listening carefully and following directions.
- 2) Offer continuous praise for students who ask questions for clarification.
- 3) When giving directions or explaining something to the class, ask a student to explain back to you and the whole class in their own words.