Cool Tools
North Tonawanda Middle School
Raising your hand to speak

School-wide Expectation: Respect
Name of skill: Raising your hand to speak
Setting: Classroom

Purpose of the lesson/why it’s important:

1) To show respect for one another.
2) To give the entire class an opportunity to hear and to learn.
3) To give everyone an opportunity to share ideas.

Teaching examples:

1) While your teacher is instructing the class, you think of a question you want to ask. STOP AND THINK. You wait until the teacher has finished his/her presentation, then raise your hand to ask a question.

2) A student is giving a presentation in front of the class. A small group of students is whispering behind you making it hard to hear. STOP AND THINK. You turn and put your fingers to your lips to indicate that the group should be quiet.

3) During a lesson by your teacher, a student from the other side of the room makes a comment you do not agree with. STOP AND THINK. Instead of blurting out your response, you raise your hand and wait to be called on.

Kid activities/Role plays:

1) Ask classrooms of students to demonstrate how to raise their hands before being recognized when someone is addressing the class.
2) Ask students to demonstrate good listening skills while the class is being addressed.
3) Ask students to demonstrate proper behavior during class discussions by raising their hands to be recognized.
Follow up/Reinforcement activities:

1) Compliment students directly and specifically when they raise their hands to be recognized before speaking.
2) Remind, reinforce desired behaviors periodically.
3) Issue a school wide reward to those who behave appropriately.