

LISTENING RULES

ACTIVITY NAME: THE FIVE L'S

Purpose

Many teachers assume that students know what behaviours are expected during listening activities. The 5Ls teach children exactly what is expected. This knowledge makes classroom management easier for the teacher and increases student attentiveness.

Strategies

Signed Makaton (Auslan as you speak), finger cues and posters (visuals) could support this lesson.

Resources

- The 5L posters

Instructions

1. The teacher explains that we are going to look at some rules which will help everyone in the class learn, and may help students not get into trouble for not listening. There are 5 rules.
2. Introduce the rules one by one.
“The first rule is looking. Wherever your eyes are is where your brain is. If you are looking out the window your brain is not thinking about what is happening in the room, it is thinking about what is outside the room.”
3. “The next rule is to listen. This does not just mean with your ears, but with your brain. If you were talking to me and my brain was thinking about what I would do after school (model a think aloud i.e. - I think I will go to the shop, or, no maybe it is hot enough for a swim? Then I might watch a bit of TV...), would I have really heard what you were saying to me? No, I would not.”
Review rules.
4. “The third rule is to keep your lips zipped. This does not mean that you have to keep your lips stuck shut all of the time; it means that you should not have noise coming out of your mouth at all when you are listening. It means no chatting, no whispering and no humming, whistling or singing. When you make noise it is very hard for you to listen, and even harder for the people around you to listen.”
Review rules.

5. “The fourth rule has to do with how you sit. If you are sitting on the floor and you are moving your legs around, sitting on your knees, moving to your bottom or twisting your legs around, do you think you could really be listening? Not properly. The other problem is that when you move around a lot you distract the people around you, and you interrupt their learning as well as your own.”

Review the rules.

6. “The last rule is about your arms. If you move your arms a lot, you stretch, scratch, poke people or fiddle, are you really listening? No! You would be thinking of other things. If you are moving a lot you will probably be distracting other people too, and interrupting their learning. This rule does not say sit like a statue, it says arms crossed to remind you to try and sit still. If you have to scratch, you can, but you try to mostly keep your arms still.”

Review the 5 rules.

7. “These rules are called the 5Ls. Any time that you need to listen, teachers can say 5Ls, and should see you sitting still with your eyes looking, ears listening, lips zipped, legs crossed and hands in laps. Let’s practise - while I close my eyes and count to 5, you wriggle and when I say ‘5Ls’ I will open my eyes and you should all be doing the 5Ls.”

Practice several times and begin to use the 5Ls regularly.

Your Notes