

Games that Build Listening Skills

Directions

ACCESS Social Skills: SW A-Games That Build Listening Skills

Just as reading and writing are skills that are learned, focused listening can be learned also. Hearing is easy, but it takes skill and effort for a person to truly listen. Below are games and activities that can build listening skills.

Mime Games

1. One way to teach listening is by using no words at all. Listening does not need to relate to your ability to hear. Watching for nonverbal clues is also a big part of listening to others. Play a mime game or charades to allow students to watch a person's body language and facial expressions. This helps gain an understanding of other aspects of listening besides just hearing words.

Draw the Description (included as SW A Game- Buddy Communicating)

2. Do any activities that require students to listen to specific instructions, then act on them. For example, you can explain an object in detail to the students, who then draw the item you describe. After you have finished the description, allow the students to hold up their pictures and show what they have drawn, and then share what they thought it was being described.

Pass the Message

3. Play Operator. This is a simple listening game that requires at least three or four people to play, but the more students involved, the better the game is. The game starts when the volunteer students get in a straight line. The person at the beginning of the line will whisper a sentence into the ear of the student behind him. (The sentence source was teacher who has whispered or told him away from the group.) This student will then whisper what he heard to the student behind him. This continues until the last student is reached. At this point, she/he will repeat what she/he believes the sentence to be. The first student should then say or write for all to see what the sentence was when it was started. There will almost always be a difference -- and sometimes a huge one.

Listening for Key Words

4. Ask students to describe what they did and how they felt when doing something with their family, playing a sport, or watching a movie. Emphasize that they should not tell -- but show their story. Encourage them to act out parts of their story and use vivid verbs and concrete nouns to describe what happened. As other students get used to hearing these descriptions, they will learn to watch for nonverbal communication and listen for descriptive language to gain an understanding of what is being said.