

Longfellow Home Cool Tool

Listening quietly to others

Expectation: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

Purpose of the lesson? Why it is important:

1. Listening to others shows respect to the person who is talking.
2. Listening helps us learn.

Teaching Examples: The following presents situations that your child might find himself in. Use these examples to discuss with your child how to make good decisions when listening to others.

- Your child's new soccer coach is talking about the rules of soccer. Your child has played before and thinks he/she knows all of the rules. Your child finds it boring and would rather think about something else. Talk about why listening to the coach is important (ex. as you get older the rules might change, different coaches might have different expectations, the coach might ask questions afterward). Talk about what consequences could occur from not listening.
- A family member is helping your child with math homework. The family member is explaining how to carry numbers when adding two columns. Your child was taught a different way to do it in school, and instead of listening to the family member your child interrupted and said, "that's not the way we learned how to do it." Ask your child if this was the appropriate way to respond. Discuss the fact that if your child needed help maybe listening to another way to do it would help him/her to learn. If your child says that it has to be done a specific way talk about how you can learn more than one way to do something and it might make it easier to understand one way when you know of another.
- You are driving your children (or your child and a friend) to the library. One of your children (or your child's friend) is talking about something that happened at school. Your other child interrupts to talk about something that he/she thinks is much more important. Discuss the importance of listening to another and letting them finish before adding information or changing the subject of conversation. Ask your child if people should listen when he/she speaks. Ask how it feels when not listened to.

Kid Activities/Role Plays:

1. Practice listening. Tell your child a story and have him/her paraphrase the story back to you. Let your child tell you a story and paraphrase it back to your child.
2. Discuss how a person can show another that they are listening to them (making eye contact, nodding, responding, etc.).
3. List ways in which listening helps us to learn, and to be safe.

Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:

1. Before telling your child something that is important let them know so by saying something to the effect of "It is very important that you listen."
2. Let your child know that you appreciate being listened to.

