

RECIPROCITY:

The social aspects of learning; 'relating'

The capacities that make up this disposition include:

Listening

Contributing to others' experiences by listening to them to understand what they are really saying, and putting yourself in their shoes.

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More Ideas

1. You can develop the volume control activity further and model different tones of voice for the children. Start with ones that are easy for the children to recognise and understand, like a cross voice or a scared one. Gradually build up this repertoire of voices and use them in stories and songs. Talk about when we use these different tones of voice and why. Through discussion try to help the children understand that the tone of voice we use will often let others know what we are feeling. Ask the children to listen carefully to the way people talk at different times and spot their feelings.
2. This activity can be expanded further by inventing voices that you can use for different activities. Imagine the voices for different toys or puppets you may have in the classroom. Make up a voice for the goldfish or the rabbit. Say to the children that you are going to count like robots today, say a rhyme like the big bad wolf or sing a song like Barbie! The children will invent a wide and wonderful assortment of voices and whilst having a lot of fun they will be refining their listening skills.
3. Get the children to join in with Goldilocks and the 3 Bears and ask them to listen to different children being each character. Discuss whose voice sounds best for each character. Try out this approach with different stories and discuss the effects with the children. Keep reminding them about listening carefully.
4. Work with small groups of children to create a listening page so that they can then go on a listening walk together around the school. Use a sheet of A4 paper subdivided into 12 or 16 boxes and in each box draw a picture of something the children might hear on their walk. As they walk around they can put a tick or cross in the box each time they hear the sound. This is great fun with clipboards and pencils and can be used for a nature trail, local walk or anywhere you would really like the children to focus on what can be heard around them. Regular short listening walks will definitely help them become really familiar with how 'active listening' feels. This will help children understand that they can learn something about birds and animals by listening carefully.
5. Play games like Word/Sound lotto.
6. Use the class/group game of Simon Says; letting children take turns at being the leader. Discuss how to succeed at the game and what a good listener must do.
7. Make the velcro wall chart and add ears for children when you notice them listening carefully to each other or to you.
8. Record the children talking; listen to the result together and talk about what helps/hinders.
9. Have a listening focus week with a special awards ceremony with medals and certificates.