

Effective Listening - Teaching Tips

What is the difference between 'hearing' and 'listening'?

Hearing is perception. Listening is processing. Listening is hearing with meaning attached.

To be an efficient listener, the student must create a mental picture of what is being said, relate this picture to previously learned information, and make generalizations.

Teaching strategies in the classroom –

Window & Walls: Acoustics and good lighting are important for good listening.

- Carpet is best. If no carpet, put tennis balls on chair feet.
- Use fabric for bulletin board backing. Hang drapes on windows.
- Reduce visual & auditory clutter. Shut door or close window if outside noise. Simplify visuals.

Noise & Number: Control human noise. More students equal more noise.

- Monitor transition activities for excessive noise.
- Teach differences between inside & outside voice
- Use an amplification system.

What before why: Teach vocabulary before concepts.

- Label objects. Emphasis similarity & differences in words (pebble, rock, boulder)
- Create word relationship webs (visual organizers)
- Use target words in a sentence.

Sight and Sound: Pair visual and auditory instruction

- Use captioning of video presentations for all students
- Give student a copy of notes &/or PowerPoint before lesson
- When reading out loud following in the book with partner finger following

Walkie Talkie: Adjust teaching style to support listening.

- Don't talk to the board. Face students while speaking.
- Stay in a key location during key concept instruction. (Don't walk & talk all over the room.)
- Give enough wait time to answer questions. Allow for processing time.
- Use single task instruction. Don't talk while student is doing seat work.

Voice & Volume: A teacher's rate, volume, accent, & diction effect comprehension.

- Vocally emphasize key words in running speech. (acoustic highlighting)
- Check for comprehension by asking for repetition or asking a question.
- Change volume according to activity.

Distance & Discipline: Use body language to control behavior.

- Close & quiet, not yelling from a distance.
- Get visual attention before beginning to speak.
- Use gestures & facial expressions to show opinion.