

Talk and Listen

Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to develop communication skills, increase socialization skills, and facilitate group interaction by sharing personal information.

Materials:

Something to signal a switch (bell, whistle, etc.)

Directions:

- Each student in the class will be assigned a partner (preferably a student they are already not close friends with). The partners will be asked to face each other and will take turns being a "listener" and a "speaker".
- Each partner will be given three minutes to listen or talk about the topic being discussed. After the three minutes the teacher will ring the bell and students will switch roles. After they have both taken turns group members will share information with the rest of the class one at a time.
- Topics can start off fairly simple (e.g. What I did last night, My best vacation, My favourite television show) and move to more complex/deep (e.g. Something I would like to learn to do better, How I have helped someone in need, Things that bother me, etc.).
- The teacher will explain that in order for two people to encourage each other to work together or solve a problem they need to be able to communicate effectively. In communication there is always a listener and a speaker. Remind the students to speak clearly and to be concise. Also remind them that as listeners they should try and listen without interrupting or thinking about something else while someone is speaking. The teacher should also encourage listeners to help prompt the speaker if they can't think of something to say by asking them questions about the topic.
- Explain that when each pair is sharing information the listener will be the one reporting back to the group, so it is important that each member does an effective job in their role to make this possible.