

Lesson: Lifelong Guideline Lesson – Active Listening

Subject Area: Back to School

Common Core Standards Covered:

Supplies Needed:

- The Cat Who Wore a Pot on Her Head by Jan Slepian & Ann Seidler
- Chart paper
- Markers

Procedure:

- Read the story aloud to the class.
- Ask the class about the cat's character and what they noticed.
- Ask the class what they think it means to be an ACTIVE listener. According to the Active Listening Lifelong Guideline song by Jeff Pedersen (suggested in our post) it involves you, your ears, your eyes, your heart and your undivided attention. Ask them why each of these things are important when they are trying to learn new things.
- Record the following on chart paper as you have your class discussion about what it means to be an active listener:
 - *YOU need to be present.*
 - *YOUR EARS do the listening.*
 - *YOUR EYES help you stay focused on what is being said.*
 - *YOUR HEART has to be into what you're hearing if you really want to learn.*
 - *YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION means you are only focusing on what is being said and not dividing your attention among other people or things in the classroom.*
- Be sure to display the chart in your classroom as a reminder about what it means to be an active listener.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Active Listening Game (Also a GREAT way for your new students to learn each other's names!):

- Have your class sit in a circle. Each child will introduce him/herself by saying their first name and then something he/she likes that begins with the first letter of their first name. You go first.
- The student after you has to actively listen to what you say because before that child can make his/her own introduction, they have to say your name and what it was that you liked.
- The next child has to remember the teacher's name and what you liked, PLUS the first student's information. Before each new student introduces him/herself, he/she has to name all the people who have already made their introductions and tell what it was that they liked. (Of course this gets a bit more difficult the further around the circle that you go, so be sure to let students know they'll have help if they need it, but also remind them that if they are ACTIVELY listening, they should be able to remember most of what they hear.)
- If time, play a short game of Simon Says to emphasize what the students have just learned.

Notes: _____
