



Keys to Effective Communication



- Maintain close proximity and use a low volume when communicating with students.
- Provide clear and simply stated directions of what you expect the child to do instead of telling them what you don't want them to do.
- Repeat back to the student what you think they are saying to clarify what the student means.
- Some children may require a model, picture, or sign of the action paired with the verbal direction.
- Use age appropriate language when speaking with students. (Refrain from using "baby talk"). Encourage students to use age appropriate language.
- Allow students time to communicate independently using their mode(s) of communication.
- Allow for extra processing and response time.

For example:

Instead of saying:	Say/Model	Reinforce
"No yelling!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Use a calm voice." • "Use an inside voice." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Speak in a low voice while saying... Now I can listen, you are using a quiet voice." • "Nice job using your inside voice."
"Don't run!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We walk in the hallway." • "Use walking feet." • "Walk please." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I like the way you're walking." • "Thanks for walking!"
"Stop calling out!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Raise your hand." • "When you raise your hand, the teacher will answer your question." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Thank you for raising your hand." • "I like the way you raised your hand to share your ideas."

"When people talk, listen completely."

Ernest Hemingway



Ways to Positively Reinforce Students



- ✓ Remarkable!
- ✓ I knew you could do it!
- ✓ What a great idea!
- ✓ You brighten my day!
- ✓ Outstanding answer!
- ✓ Thanks for volunteering.
- ✓ What a good listener!
- ✓ I like the way... (you are working quietly, sitting nicely in your seat, working with your partner, etc)
- ✓ How creative!
- ✓ Can you share your great idea with the class?
- ✓ _____(name of student)___ is the first one who is ready to work!
- ✓ Now you've got it!
- ✓ I can tell you worked hard on this.
- ✓ You must be so proud of your project!
- ✓ Hooray for you!
- ✓ Let's cheer for _____(name of student)___!
- ✓ Super job!
- ✓ Does everyone see how nicely _____(name of student)___is standing in line?
- ✓ You figured it out all by yourself!
- ✓ I like the way you are sitting nicely in your seat.
- ✓ That's a good point!
- ✓ Excellent work!

- ✓ Congratulations!
- ✓ I'll bet your mom and dad would be proud to see the job you did on this.
- ✓ You did well on the test because you studied hard!
- ✓ Good thinking!
- ✓ Much better!
- ✓ Your classmates look up to you.
- ✓ I am so glad I get to work with you today.
- ✓ I appreciate your help.
- ✓ _____(name of student)____, you are the best!
- ✓ That is the coolest picture I have ever seen!
- ✓ You have put a lot of thought into the answer to the question!
- ✓ It is amazing how much you have learned this year!
- ✓ Way to go, _____(name of student)____!
- ✓ How does it feel to know all of your multiplication facts?
- ✓ I learned something new from you.
- ✓ Good thinking!

Strategies for Facilitating Student Independence

- Increasing learner independence is the instructional goal for every student! Encourage students to be independent rather than dependent.
- Encourage and allow students to make choices and decisions.
- Encourage students to complete activity as independently as possible prior to offering support.
- Allow student work to be authentic, rather than completed by the paraprofessional.
- Allow students to make mistakes and experience natural consequences, unless there is a safety issue.
- When appropriate, sit or stand at a distance from the student who requires additional adult support.
- Break larger tasks into smaller steps to allow student to independently perform parts of task/assignment.