

Relationship Lesson—Turn, Listen, and Talk

UNDERSTAND (Why?)

Incorporating the Turn, Listen, and Talk strategy into the school day helps to establish a conducive and engaging learning environment, fostering effective communication and active participation among students. This increased communication and participation enhances relationships by creating opportunities for building trust, fostering collaboration, enhancing understanding, and promoting inclusivity, ultimately creating a supportive and engaging learning community.

PREPARE (Students)

We are going to learn a strategy that will make our class discussions even better. It's called Turn, Listen, and Talk. Imagine it like a superpower for communication! We are going to learn this strategy because it helps our brains learn and remember what is being taught. When we actively listen, we are thinking, processing, and engaging with the information. When we are active listeners, we are respectful to those who are talking.

TEACH (Explicitly)

Establish classroom norms and expectations for Turn, Listen, and Talk. Clearly communicate when and how you expect students to use this strategy by writing behaviors on an anchor chart.

When someone is speaking, we realize it's their "turn," and we respect that, right? We work to give them our full attention. We turn to face them and make eye contact. That is the first part of this strategy: turn. (Write on anchor chart.)

Then comes the next part: listen. This is when our ears have an important job. We listen actively, not just hearing the words, but paying attention to what is being said and trying to understand the ideas and feelings behind them. To do this, we face the person who is talking, make eye contact, and ignore any distractions so they have our full attention. This is respectful to the speaker and helps you understand what they are saying. (Write on anchor chart.)

Now, here's where we become communication champions. After we've taken our turn listening, we switch roles. It is now our turn to talk while the other person listens. But not just any talk: It's thoughtful, respectful sharing. We build on what others have said, ask questions, and express our own ideas. This way, everyone's voice gets heard, our discussions become a powerhouse of ideas, and we learn a lot. (Write on anchor chart.)

Now I am going to ask someone to come up here and model the strategy Turn, Listen, and Talk with me.

(Call on a student to model with you. Tell them they are going to be the speaker and tell you about what they did last night. When they are talking, model active listening. Stand in front of the class, face the speaker, make eye contact, and engage in the act of listening. When they are finished speaking, respond thoughtfully. This visual demonstration helps students understand the behavior. When you're finished, review the behaviors and reflect on the outcome.)

Let's reflect on what you noticed when we were modeling the Turn, Listen, and Talk strategy. Did I turn to face the speaker and make eye contact? Did I actively listen? Did I ignore distractions? When the speaker was finished, did I respond thoughtfully? [Yes.] If we use the

strategy Turn, Listen, and Talk like this, will we be successful at active listening and communication? Yes!

We call this strategy Turn, Listen, and Talk. It will help us create a classroom where everyone feels heard and valued. Who's ready to try this out in our next discussion?

Then, pair students up and give them a specific prompt or discussion topic. Have them practice taking turns being the speaker and the listener. Encourage them to practice turning toward each other, actively listening, and responding respectfully.

SUPPORT (Pivots)

- After practice sessions, engage the class in reflective discussions. Ask students to share their experiences with the strategy and discuss how it helped their understanding of others and their understanding of the content. Post the anchor chart in the room to serve as a visual reminder to reinforce the concept.
- Review and practice so that students build behaviors with consistent implementation. Encourage students to self-monitor their use of the strategy.
- Review the anchor chart as needed.