

Incorporating ESLRs into Lesson Plans

Cooperative Learners: Communicate Respectfully

Introduction:

Teacher spends a few minutes near the beginning of the course discussing positive communication skills with the class. “As we work on our class goals together, we need to listen to each other’s ideas in a polite manner. It is important that each student feels free to express his/her ideas to the class. It isn’t appropriate to put someone down because his/her ideas may be different than yours. There may be times when we politely agree to disagree, and that’s okay, too.”

Throughout the course, the teacher models positive communication skills by making eye-to-eye contact, listening attentively, smiling, using an inviting voice tone, and repeating student comments and ideas.

Examples:

Academic courses: Teacher should encourage discussion (when appropriate) among the students making sure that students who want to speak have some time allotted to them. Teacher discourages impolite interruptions from other students.

Exercise and Fitness: Teacher makes encouraging comments about student’s progress. This encourages students to do the same.

Arts and Crafts: As students create quilts, paintings, baskets, etc. the teacher has a “sharing time” where the other students can make positive comments about the finished projects.

Computer Education: Students are encouraged to work together and encourage each other as they learn the new programs.

Student In-Put:

Students are encouraged to communicate positive comments about other students’ work and accomplishments. “I really like the way you’ve used the bright batik fabrics in that quilt!”

Conclusion:

Teacher reviews communication techniques with students throughout the year. “Let’s remember to listen to each other. We all learn differently—let’s remember to support each other.”