

May

BE COMMUNICATIVE

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) was founded in 1927, by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The aim of BHSM is to raise awareness about hearing and speech problems, encouraging people to analyze their own hearing and speech, and to take action if they think there might be a problem. As educators, we strive to foster rich environments of communication.

As Richard Scarry once stated, "It's a precious thing to be communicating to children, helping them discover the gift of language and thought."

In celebration of this month's theme, below are 6 simple strategies for enhancing classroom communication that puts students first.



1 Create opportunities

- Place items out of reach so student has to ask
- Give student smaller amounts of items so student asks for more
- Provide opportunities for student to ask for help
- Do something silly or unexpected and watch for student response (Ex: Say "Moo" for a dog)

2 Model

- Use vocabulary and grammar that is slightly more complex than the student uses
- Demonstrate appropriate verbal interactions (Ex: "That's mine but we can share.")

3 Wait

- Provide time for the student to process, think about, and formulate a response

4 Extend the conversation by restating or adding words

Student statement:
"The boy ran."

Teacher response:
"The boy ran home quickly."

5 Ask open ended questions

Instead of saying,
"Do you have a pet?"

Say, "What is your pet like?"

6 Comment

- Describe what the student is doing (Ex: "I see you chose the blue car!")
- Talk to the student about the interactions you see
- Acknowledge or restate what the student said



Six Simple Strategies

AISD Special Education Department

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Visual support to help students expand their description of an item or word.
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