



Lesson: Listen and React

Ages: 4th and 5th grade

Supplies needed: Three chairs.

Project Intro: This lesson will help children understand how listening and reacting to events in a scene can be just as important as speaking.

Materials Reference: Teaching Drama, The Essential Handbook (beatbybeat Press)

Project steps:

Warm-Up Activity:

- **Bippity Bippity Bop:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yVjYUypP9I>
 - Ask the children and other family members participating to stand in a circle. Choose a facilitator to stand in the middle of the circle.
 - LEVEL 1: The facilitator points at someone in the circle and says “bippity bippity bop” as fast as he/she can. The person being pointed to must say “bop” before they get to the end of their phrase. If the facilitator points to a participant and only says “bop”, then the participant must stay quiet and not say anything. The goal of the facilitator is to get the participants to not say “bop” fast enough in the first case scenario, and to say “bop” in the second.

- LEVEL 2: After this level is well understood by the whole group, it is time to add another dimension. If the facilitator points to a participant and says “haunted house”, the participant must crouch down and in a ghoulish voice say “Come in! Come in!. The two participants to the left and right must use both their arms to make the roof of a house over the crouched participant.
- LEVEL 3: If the facilitator points to a participant and says “Hawaii”, the participant being pointed at would have to do the hula while the students on the left and right would put their arms up like palm trees.
- If you have time, you can add more in.
- Finally, once the participants get the hang of it, you can add an “elimination mode”: if a participant messes up, he/she must sit down. Go until you have a winner.

Drama Activity:

- **TV Reaction**

- Get three chairs and place them in a row.
- Ask three participants to come and sit in one of the chairs.
- All three participants will get 1 minute to choose a TV show.
- Have them pretend that they are watching that TV show. There can be no words. The goal is for them to react together to the events occurring on the program.
- Ask the other participants to try and guess what type of show they were watching (ie. drama, comedy, romance, scary, etc.)

- **The Phone Rings**

- One at a time, ask each participant to pretend that they are answering the phone (they can either use a real phone or pantomime holding a phone).
- They should pick up the phone and listen to the voice on the other line.
- Over the course of 30 seconds they are to silently react to the voice on the other line by going from one emotion, to the exact opposite, then back to the first. They should strive to be as believable as possible.

- The moment after they pick up the phone you will tell them who is on the other line, then there will only be silence as they imagine the rest of the conversation in their head.
 - EXAMPLE:
 - Participant 1 picks up the phone.
 - You say “Your best friend is asking you to go to the park.”
 - Participant 1 shows excitement while continuing to listen to the conversation, then something happens in the conversation that makes her gradually show sadness or concern, then finally back to excitement.
 - The whole time it should seem like there is someone on the other line.

Drama Vocabulary:

Pantomime – when actors express meaning through physical gestures