

Empathy and Listening

Thank you for listening so carefully.

Can you put yourself in ...'s shoes?

I felt you were listening because you kept your eyes on me.

I found it easier to work out what I wanted to say because you waited for me to finish.

What do you think might be the reasons why..... thinks that?

That's an interesting opinion. How many more points of view can we find out?

Can I just check out that I have got it right? What I think you have said is.....

Look at their faces. What do you think they are feeling?

How can you tell that someone is listening to you?

Why is listening important?

How do you think this makes feel?

Try not to rush to a judgement about what someone is saying, keep an open mind.

Some language pointers!

When you use this learning muscle, you...

- Pay other people attention.
- Show you are listening by eye contact and body language.
- Reflect back the main points someone has said.
- Hear feelings and thoughts behind someone's words.
- Put yourself in other people's shoes.

Contributing to others' experiences by listening to them to understand what they are really saying and putting yourself in their shoes.

Ways that we can foster the skill of Empathy and Listening:-

- Have fun!
- Allow children's imagination free reign.
- Make the objective explicit – to begin to get inside other people's minds and understand them.
- Expect children to be able to put themselves in other people's shoes and to articulate very different points of view.
- Extend role play to develop other aspects of reciprocity and celebrate all good ideas and collaborative ways of working.

