

What Did You Mean?

Introduction: During the second grade year, students are expected to use nonverbal communication while making announcements, giving directions, or making introductions. This activity will give the students practice in perfecting this objective.

Grade Level and Subject: 2nd Grade Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading – 3B
P.E. – 1C, 1F, 2A, 3A, 3B, 3C

Materials: Some large poster boards, markers

Activity: Every teacher knows that they use certain sentences over and over during the day. For example, a teacher will probably tell his or her students “Line up quietly” many times during a school day. So, to ease the teacher’s vocal cords, the students are going to develop a physical movement or two that the teacher can use instead of his or her voice to have the students behave in a certain desired way.

The teacher and the students will begin this activity with a discussion of certain phrases and/or sentences that seem to be repeated often during the day. These phrases and sentences will be written on the board.

The teacher will then assist the students in developing a physical motion (or two or three physical motions) for the phrase/sentence. For example, for the phrase “Line up quietly,” the students could practice walking around in a line with their fingers to their lips in the “shhh” motion. The teacher should let the students’ creativity blossom while developing these signals.

Once a decent number of signals have been developed, the teacher will write them on poster boards. The teacher will go to the gym and tape/staple these poster boards to the walls, preferably where students will see them well. The teacher will then take the students to the gym.

The students will stand in the middle of the gym. The teacher will give a phrase/sentence from the poster board, and the students will perform the activity that was developed for that phrase/sentence. After a short while, the students will congregate in the middle of the gym again, and the teacher will call out another phrase/sentence. The students will then complete the physical activity associated with that phrase/sentence.

The teacher has the option to use these physical movements instead of the usual phrase or sentence during the school day. However, the purpose of the activity is to get the students moving and to use their creativity while doing so.

Evaluation: The teacher will approve all movements created by the children. He or she will also monitor all behavior and movement in the gym.



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