

Dealing With The Talker

Constant talking while instruction is occurring can be annoying as well as disruptive. We are not talking about the occasional whisper, but the frequent conversation by students that disturbs the class and detracts from valuable instructional time.

When this occurs, try the following:

1. Walk around the room and stand near the students who are talking or likely to talk.
2. Separate friends who encourage each other to talk.
3. Hold a private conference. Constant talking during instruction is a sign of a problem. It could mean a reaction to boredom by a student who is ahead of the class, or it could be an indication that a student is not able to keep up with the class.
4. Put the student in a time-out area until instruction is completed. Then you can discuss the problem and reach a solution with the student.
5. Withdraw privileges from the student who cannot conform to your classroom rules of talking during instruction time.