

Dear Parent,

During this first month of school, teachers are teaching and reviewing, the skill of *LISTENING*. Children are learning that the self-discipline skill of listening requires them to use a 'hidden power'. If they decide to use their hidden power much good can come to them. When a person uses their hidden power to listen they do three things:

1. They stop what they are doing and saying.
2. They clear away distractions.
(TV., stereos, etc. are turned off or down)
3. They look at or toward the speaker.

Since people can do these three actions and still not have their power turned on, three additional clues let others know if listening has really happened. Listening has happened if the listener can:

1. Repeat in their own words what was said.
2. Ask questions if something is not understood, or to gain further information.
3. Do an action if directed to do so.

This month at home, try to develop some worthwhile strategies to help everyone develop the self-discipline skill of listening. Teach young children the rhyme, "If my eyes you cannot see, don't begin to talk to me." Stop what you are doing or saying and clear away distractions before talking to older children about important matters.

Remember the skill of listening is the first and most foundational self-discipline skill upon which all others are built.

Enjoy what you hear.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Baalman