

REFRAMING OUR LANGUAGE
Not Following Directions: Grades TK-K

Small language shifts that keep connection first

INSTEAD OF SAYING...	TRY SAYING...
<i>"How many times do I have to tell you?"</i>	"Let's try that direction one more time, together."
<i>"You're not listening to me."</i>	"I need your eyes and ears. Let's try again."
<i>"I already told you what to do!"</i>	"Let's break it into one step at a time."
<i>"Why can't you just do what I say?"</i>	"That was a lot to remember. Let's start with just the first part."
<i>"Stop ignoring me."</i>	"I'm going to come closer so it's easier to hear me."
<i>"Do it now, no excuses."</i>	"Show me the first step, then we'll do the next one."
<i>"You never listen the first time."</i>	"Let's practice listening the first time — ready?"
<i>"I'm not going to say it again."</i>	"I'll wait right here while you get started."

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