

REFRAMING OUR LANGUAGE

Not Following Directions: Grades 1–3

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 one more time — I'll say it slow."
<i>"You're not listening."</i>	"Can you tell me what I just asked you to do?"
<i>"I already told you what to do!"</i>	"Let's go over it one more time together."
<i>"Why can't you just listen the first time?"</i>	"That's a lot to remember — let's do it one step at a time."
<i>"Stop ignoring me."</i>	"Come stand by me so it's easier to hear."
<i>"Do it now."</i>	"Show me you can start — I'll be right here."
<i>"You never listen."</i>	"Let's practice listening — ready, set, go."
<i>"I'm not saying it again."</i>	"I'll say it one more time, then it's your turn to try."

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