

REFRAMING OUR LANGUAGE

Not Following Directions: Grades 4–6

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 figure out what's getting in the way of following through."
<i>"You're clearly not listening."</i>	"Let's make sure we're on the same page — what did you hear me ask?"
<i>"Why do you never do what I ask?"</i>	"That's twice now — what's making this one hard to follow through on?"
<i>"I shouldn't have to repeat myself."</i>	"Check in with me if you're ever not sure what's next."
<i>"Stop ignoring me and get to work."</i>	"You've got two minutes to get started — I'll check back."
<i>"You need to listen better."</i>	"Let's set a plan so you remember what comes next."
<i>"I'm not asking again."</i>	"I'll say it once more, then it's on you to follow through."
<i>"You always tune me out."</i>	"I notice long directions are tricky for you — want it written down too?"

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