

Idea 18

Talk, Stop, and Walk

This is a wonderful communication technique to use with students who are constantly trying to wheedle, whine, or argue; anything to avoid following directions. This idea is based on a strategy called "Speak 'n Spin" by Linda Classen, an educator in Texas.

Here's how Talk, Stop, and Walk works.

- ❶ **Talk**
When a student is misbehaving, look the student in the eye and calmly describe the behavior in two or three words. For example, "That's arguing." Or "That's talking out."
- ❷ **Stop**
At the same time, make the stop sign with your arm by putting your hand out with the palm facing the student. This is the visual cue to "stop."
- ❸ **Talk**
Next, use two or three words to request the behavior you want to see. For example, "Show me waiting." Or "Show me listening."
- ❹ **Walk**
Then, break eye contact and turn or walk away from the student. If the student follows your direction, reinforce him or her immediately.

Tip:

This is a good technique to rehearse and practice, so that you follow all the steps. Remember, the more consistent you are, the more effective this strategy will be. This is also a great idea to share with parents.

- ❺ **Talk**
If the student does not comply with your request, then talk again, this time explaining the contingency or deal that is in place.
 - If you do what is asked, then you can get what you want. If I have to ask again, you will lose a privilege or reinforcer. (For example, "If you listen, then you can have your whole recess time, but if I have to ask you again, then you will lose the first 5 minutes of recess.")
- ❻ **Walk**
Then no more talking.

