

# The Value of Listening

## Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social-emotional learning refers to helping children discover and practice ways to undertake life's challenges in a healthy, productive, and cooperative manner. There are five facets of social-emotional learning:

- **Self-respect and awareness**
- **Self-management**
- **Empathy and respect**
- **Social skills**
- **Decision-making**

## Listening and Social-Emotional Learning

Listening is an essential element of self-awareness, self-respect, social skills, decision-making, and self-management. Children gain the vocabulary needed to make themselves understood and the empathy needed to make connections with others by listening.

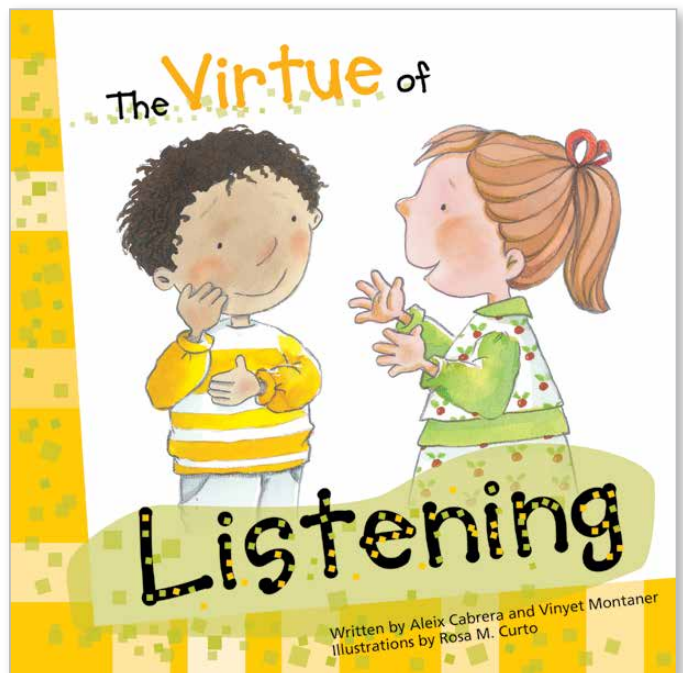
*The Virtue of Listening* (© Loyola Press) uses simple scenes from daily life to explore how different forms of listening help children develop important social and emotional skills that will enhance their ability to build relationships and experience academic success

## Teaching the Value of Listening

- Make certain that children feel comfortable and safe taking part in group discussions. Consider using a small object, such as a plush figure, to signify that whoever has the object is the only one that is recognized to speak.
- When asking children to engage in class discussion, consider having the group sit in a circle so that children can make eye contact with others.

- When reading aloud stories for children, such as *The Virtue of Listening*, read dramatically, using gestures and a varied tone of voice to convey meaning and to further engage listeners.
- Use a familiar song, rhyme, or other auditory cue to let children know that it is time to gather around or transition to a different activity or task to help children control their attention and focus.
- Play games that help children focus their listening, such as Red Light, Green Light and Simon Says.
- Help children modulate the volume of their voices by providing opportunities to practice whispering as well as “indoor” and “outdoor” voices.
- Play music and ask children to hear the music and to listen to how it makes them feel.

Use the scenarios in *The Virtue of Listening* book and the activities that follow to highlight the role of listening in social-emotional learning.



# I Hear Many Sounds

## Before You Read Aloud

CHILDREN OFTEN ENJOY LISTENING to a favorite book read aloud several times. So, you may wish to read the entire *The Virtue of Listening* book to the class a day or two before undertaking the activity that follows.

### MATERIALS

- › *The Virtue of Listening* by Aleix Cabrera and Vinyet Montaner (© Loyola Press, 2020 ISBN 978-0-8294-5037-8)
- › I Hear Many Sounds Children's Page
- › Crayons or markers

### 1 Begin

Signal children to gather around you. Once children have comfortably gathered, ask the following questions, pausing to allow children to make the sounds.

- What sound does a dog make?
- What are other sounds animals make?
- What sound does the wind make?
- What are other weather sounds?

Explain that there are all kinds of sounds around us every day if we listen carefully. Then read aloud the story “The Sound Collector” on pages 10 and 11 in *The Virtue of Listening*. Pause and have children repeat “crack-crack,” “blub-blub,” and “creak” as you encounter these words in the story.

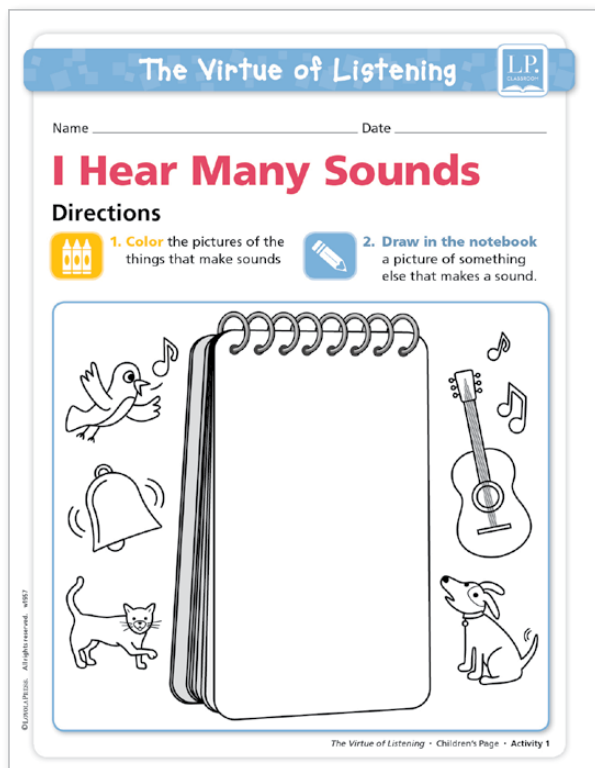
### 2 Connect

Distribute the Children's Page. Explain that the children will be sound collectors like the child in the story by drawing pictures in their own sound notebooks. Read aloud the directions.

### 3 Close

Encourage children to imitate the sounds each thing pictured on the Children's Page makes. Invite volunteers to share the picture they drew in their “notebook” and to make the sound that thing makes.

Say: **One of the nicest things to hear are kind words from a friend. Your words are meaningful. Turn to the person nearest you and say a kind thing to him or her in an indoor voice.** Model what to do by turning to the child nearest you and say: **[child's name], you're an important member of our class.** Allow time for children to exchange kind words with one another.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## I Hear Many Sounds

### Directions



1. **Color** the pictures of the things that make sounds



2. **Draw in the notebook** a picture of something else that makes a sound.



# I Can Listen

## Before You Read Aloud

CHILDREN OFTEN ENJOY LISTENING to a favorite book read aloud several times. So, you may wish to read the entire *The Virtue of Listening* book to the class a day or two before undertaking the activity that follows.

### MATERIALS

- › *The Virtue of Listening* by Aleix Cabrera and Vinyet Montaner (© Loyola Press, 2020 ISBN 978-0-8294-5037-8)
- › I Can Listen Children's Page
- › Crayons or markers

### 1 Begin

Signal children to gather around you. Say: ***It's important to listen when someone is speaking.*** Read aloud the story "Interruptions" on pages 16 and 17 in *The Virtue of Listening*. Say: ***When you interrupt someone when he or she is speaking, you are not showing respect for the person who is talking. You might also miss out on important information. What should you do if you have something to say when someone else is speaking?*** Guide the children to understand that they should listen carefully when someone else is speaking until it is their turn to speak. Review classroom rules about what children should do if they would like to speak, such as hand raising.

### 2 Connect

Distribute the Children's Pages. Say: ***Good friends listen to each other about how they feel.*** Draw children's attention to the picture and read aloud the text in the speech bubble. Ask children to offer ways someone might respond to "How do you feel today?" Remind children to raise their hands if they have an answer. Read aloud the directions. Allow time for children to complete the Children's Page.

### 3 Close

Invite volunteers to share their completed pages. Ask: ***What do you think the child on the left would say next?*** Guide children to understand that when we listen and respond to someone, we are showing him or her that you care about them. Say: ***When we listen and don't interrupt, we show we care.***

The Virtue of Listening

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## I Can Listen

**Directions**

- Read the question in the speech bubble.
- Write what you think the child on the right would answer in the speech bubble
- Color the picture using at least three other colors.

How do you feel today?

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The Virtue of Listening • Children's Page • Activity 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## I Can Listen

### Directions

- **Read** the question in the speech bubble.
- **Write** what you think the child on the right would answer in the speech bubble
- **Color** the picture using at least three other colors.

How do you feel today?

