

# ***Ollie the Owl Learns To Listen***

## Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of listening to others and showing that they care through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen."

## Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen"
- The song "Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen"
- Ollie's Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers
- Activity 1- puppets (owl, bear, rabbit, bee, beaver)
- Activity 2- Listening Ears Headband handout, construction paper and glue/stapler
- Home Connection Letter

## Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

### Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly talk about what listening means and why it is important to listen to others.
- Introduce the concept of showing care and respect by listening attentively.

## Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

### 1. Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:

- "Good morning, everyone! Today, we're going to learn about something very important: *listening*. Can anyone tell me what it means to listen?"
- Wait for the children to respond.

### 2. Discussion Starter

- "Listening means using our ears and focusing on what someone else is saying. It's a way to show that we care about others and want to hear what they have to say. When we listen carefully, we learn new things and make others feel happy. Today, we'll hear a story about our friend, Ollie the Owl, who learned the importance of listening."

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story “Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen” aloud to the class
- Ask questions during key parts in the story.

### Story Time Teacher Script:

#### 1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. “Let’s all get comfortable because it’s story time! Today’s story is called ‘*Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen.*’ As we read, let’s pay close attention to how Ollie learns to listen to his friends and why that’s important.”
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

#### 2. Read the story with an emphasis on key moments:

While reading, pause during key moments to ask the following questions:.

- Why do you think Ollie kept talking when Benny tried to speak?  
(*Encourages self-awareness and turn-taking.*)
- How did Benny feel when Ollie wasn’t listening?  
(*Promotes emotional understanding.*)
- What did Ollie do to show he was ready to listen?  
(*Highlights listening behaviors like stopping, watching, staying quiet.*)
- How do you think Benny felt when Ollie finally listened to his story?  
(*Reinforces how listening helps others feel valued.*)
- What does Harriet say to Ollie after he listens to her idea?  
(*Focuses on positive outcomes of listening.*)
- Can you show me what a good listener looks like with your body?  
(*Gets kids physically involved – great for movement and modeling.*)
- Why was Ollie happy after listening to his friends?  
(*Helps children connect listening with positive emotions.*)

- How do you feel when someone listens carefully to you?  
*(Encourages personal connection and empathy.)*
- What are some ways we can show we're listening, just like Ollie?  
*(Promotes active listening skills – eye contact, nodding, quiet mouths.)*
- If you were one of Ollie's friends, what would you want to tell him?  
*(Invites creativity and practice expressing ideas.)*

### Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen

In a forest green and wide,  
Lived Ollie the Owl, with wings spread wide.  
He loved to hoot and share his view,  
But listening was something he needed to do.

One sunny day, with skies so clear,  
Ollie's friends all gathered near.  
Benny the Bear began to talk,  
But Ollie hooted, like a squawking hawk.

"Ollie," said Benny, "please listen to me,  
I have something important, I want you to see."  
Ollie stopped and closed his beak,  
He realized then, it was Benny's turn to speak.

Benny shared a tale so grand,  
About a hidden treasure in the land.  
Ollie listened, eyes open wide,  
Feeling the warmth of Benny's pride.

Next, Harriet the Hare had something to say,  
About a new game they could play.

Ollie listened, nodding his head,  
Hearing her ideas, his heart felt fed.

"Thank you, Ollie," said Harriet with cheer,  
"Listening to me shows you care, my dear."  
Ollie felt happy, his heart so light,  
Listening to friends felt just right.

Then Buzz the Bee buzzed near,  
"I have a song for you to hear."  
Ollie listened to the buzzing tune,  
Feeling as bright as the afternoon.

Buzz's song was sweet and kind,  
A melody that filled his mind.  
"Thank you, Ollie," Buzz did say,  
"For listening to my song today."

Betty the Beaver wanted to share,  
A story of building with love and care.  
Ollie listened with all his might,  
Seeing Betty's joy was a pure delight.

As Betty talked about her dam,  
Ollie felt proud, like a gentle lamb.  
"Listening to you makes me glad,  
Hearing your stories, I never feel sad."



Ollie learned that listening well,  
Made his heart with happiness swell.  
It showed his friends how much he cared,  
By listening to the thoughts they shared.

At home that night, with his family near,  
Ollie's heart was full of cheer.  
He listened to his mom and dad,  
And shared the day he had.

"Ollie," said Mom, with a gentle voice,  
"Listening to others is a wonderful choice.  
It shows you care, it shows you're true,  
And makes others feel special, just like you."

Ollie felt proud; he understood,  
Listening to others was truly good.

He learned that caring starts with ears,  
And brings joy, laughter, and even cheers.

So remember Ollie, wise and bright,  
Listening to others feels just right.  
With open ears and an open heart,  
You show you care, right from the start.

Ollie the Owl, with friends so dear,  
Learned to listen, year after year.  
And in the forest, green and grand,  
He showed his love with a listening hand.

### 3. Post-Story Teacher Script

- "Ollie learns that when you listen to others, it shows that you care what they have to say. "

### 4. Post-Story Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the story and connect it to their own experiences:

- Why is it important to listen when someone else is talking?  
(*Encourages understanding of the value of respect and attention.*)
- What might happen if we don't listen to our friends or teachers?  
(*Promotes cause-and-effect thinking about behavior.*)



- How did listening help Ollie make his friends feel happy?  
*(Builds empathy and social awareness.)*
- Can you think of a time when someone listened to you? How did it make you feel?  
*(Connects the story to real-life experiences.)*
- What could you do if you feel like talking when someone else is speaking?  
*(Teaches self-regulation and patience.)*
- Which character in the story do you think was most thankful for Ollie listening? Why?  
*(Invites opinion and reasoning.)*
- What would you do if a friend was talking and someone else kept interrupting?  
*(Encourages peer support and advocacy.)*
- How can we be good listeners at school? At home?  
*(Applies the skill across different settings.)*
- What would you tell Ollie if you could give him advice about listening?  
*(Promotes problem-solving and personal voice.)*
- How can we remind ourselves to listen like Ollie when we're excited or busy?  
*(Build strategies for real-life situations.)*

### Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the “Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen” song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

“Now, let’s sing a song about listening! We’ll use some fun hand movements to help us remember that listening is about using our ears and showing we care.

Let’s sing together and follow along with the movements!”

## “Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen” Song

## Hand Movements

### Verse 1]

Ollie the Owl in the tree  
Hoots so loud he just can't see  
Friends around all start to frown  
Ollie gives a friendly sound

Cup hands around mouth

### Verse 2

Bunny hops up to his branch  
Says let's play, give us a chance  
Ollie listens once or twice  
Now those friends are oh so nice

Make bunny ears with hands and hop

### [Chorus]

Listen up, listen well  
Friendships grow, and hearts will swell  
Listen good listen, long  
Ollie learned to sing this song

Cup hands around ears

Cup hands around ears

### Verse 3

Squirrel chatters tells a tale  
Ollie listens without fail  
Fox then comes and spins yarns, too  
Ollie's ears are open true

Cup hands around ears

### [Bridge]

Little birds up in the air  
Chirp and tweet without a care  
Ollie hears them all around  
Listening makes such a sound

Flap hands like bird wings

Cup hands around ears

### [Chorus]

Listen up, listen well  
Friendships grow, and hearts will swell  
Listen, good listen, long  
Ollie learned to sing this song

Cup hands around ears

Cup hands around ears

“You all did a wonderful job singing and moving along! Remember, just like Ollie, listening helps us show others we care.”

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice listening to others.

**Please choose from the following 2 activities:**

### Activity 1: Animal Role-play (15 minutes)



#### 1. Introduce Activity

“Now, let’s practice listening by using our puppets! We have Ollie the Owl, Benny the Bear, Harriet the Hare, Buzz the Bee, and Betty the Beaver. Each puppet friend will take turns sharing something, and we’ll practice listening just like Ollie did. After the story, we’ll talk about how we showed that we were

listening. ”

- **Activity Instructions**

For each role-play scenario, choose one student to come up and pretend to be the character and tell a story to the class. Let the child make up the story using the basic scenario idea.

1. Benny the Bear tells a story about finding honey.

Teacher: “Let’s listen to Benny’s story. How can we show we’re listening? (Guide students to nod, smile, or ask questions after Benny finishes.)”

2. Harriet the Hare explains a new game she learned.

Teacher: “Let’s listen closely to Harriet. When she’s done, we can ask her questions to show we were listening.”

3. Buzz the Bee sings a buzzing song for everyone.

Teacher: “Buzz is excited to sing his song. Let’s listen to him, and when he finishes, we can tell him what we liked about his song.”

After each scenario, choose several students to share ways they showed that they were listening.

“That was an excellent role-play! Ok, class, how did we show that we were listening? What did we do?” (looked at the person speaking, sat and did not fidget/wiggle around, did not talk during the role-play)



## Activity 2: Listening Ears Headband (15 minutes)

- **Introduce Activity**

“Now, we’re going to make special *Listening Ears!* These ears will remind us to listen carefully to others. Let’s use our creativity to decorate them and make them our own!”

- **Activity Instructions**

### Instructions for Craft Activity

1. **Distribute Materials:** Give each child a headband template, ear shapes, crayons, markers, and stickers.
2. **Explain the Craft:**  
“On your headband, you can decorate the ears to show that you’re a great listener! You can use colors and add stickers. These listening ears will remind us to pay close attention when our friends or family are talking.”
3. **Create the Headbands:**  
“Once you’re finished decorating, we’ll attach the ears to the headband, and you can wear them. Who wants to share their Listening Ears with the group?”



## Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

### 1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about listening and how you show someone that you are listening

## Review and Reflection Teacher Script

### 1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:



"Let's come back to our circle and think about what we learned today. Listening is a way to show we care and respect others. Can anyone share a time when they listened to someone and how it made them feel?"

## Closing

- "Listening helps us understand our friends and makes them feel valued. Remember to use your Listening Ears every day to be a great friend!"
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"I am so proud of all of you for learning how to show empathy today. Let's remember to use empathy every day, whether we're at school, at home, or playing with friends."

## Home Connection Letter

### 1. Sending Information Home:

- "Before you go, I have a special letter for you to take home to your parents. It talks about everything we learned today about listening and how you can practice it at home. Be sure to tell your family about the story, the song, and the game we played!"
- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

## Parent Letter

### Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today in class, we learned about the importance of listening through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Listen." This story teaches children that listening to others shows care and respect and helps us understand and connect with our friends and family.

Here's what we learned:

- Listening – Understanding that listening to others helps us show that we care and respect them.
- Showing Care and Respect – Recognizing that listening attentively makes others feel valued and understood.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and making "Listening Ears" headbands. You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to listen carefully to others and show respect through their actions.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



# Listening Ears

