

The TRUTH about Paying Attention

Often, teachers think that a student is NOT paying attention unless they are sitting quietly, looking at them, and not moving. But some students NEED to move and touch and feel in order to process the information. Watch how what looks like "distraction" is really a conduit for his learning.

Expecting students to always be quiet and listen to whatever you say and learn it is a mistake. You're setting yourself (and them) up for frustration and disappointment. And that creates management issues for you.

A BETTER APPROACH

Now, you probably don't want students swinging around yo-yo's lol, so here's what you can do instead to increase their attention and allow them to process the information too.

Make sure that students have a way to interact with your words. EXAMPLE:

- 1) Give them a **fill-in**. This is a sheet that has some of what you're talking about on it but with missing words or phrases. This compels their brains to pay attention to you so they can get the missing information.
 - Here is a video that you can show to students: ***Why Do You Really Need School Anyway?*** – You might need to scroll down to the title.

VIDEO LINK. https://www.youtube.com/embed/z4ToJr_1u8

- Download the fill-in here: <https://teachers.selinajoyjackson.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FILL-in-for-Why-Do-You-Really-Need-School.pdf>