GATE Group-September

Welcome Back Fun

We spent our first GATE Group session participating in some fun activities to reacquaint all of our current students. I decided that playing a couple of challenging activities would be just what our group of challenge seekers would need!!

The first game we played was our “Warm Up” game called: **“Do As I Say.”** This is a really fun game and portrays how we listen. We don’t just listen with our ears, but we also listen by using our eyes and our brain processes. This became the fun part of the game, as what I said didn’t always match what I, as the leader, might be doing as actions!!! 😊😊😊

 I stood on a stool so all could see me clearly, and gave instructions to the students. Their job was to do what I said according to the actions listed below. I practiced with the students, but then stopped and made them just listen to the directions I said. I also mixed up the actions, and got a little faster with each practice.

Clap twice

Make a fist

Snap your fingers

Jump three times

After our practice, I changed up my actions with the verbal direction that I gave them. An example of the activity looked something like this:

**I said to clap three times, but I was snapping my fingers when I told the students to clap. It was fun for the kids to see how carefully they became at REALLY listening to my words, and not following my actions.**

**After this “warm up” we discussed how our listening is not merely guided by what we hear, and that is why truly listening to something requires concentration.**

Our second game was also meant to improve our listening skills. It was called, **“Back to Back”,** and involved drawing. The directions were to:

1. Sit back to back with another student
2. One person gets a picture from Mrs. B. and must describe the drawing to his/her partner.
3. The other student gets paper and a pencil, and must listen to their partner describe the picture and draw it without looking.

This activity was great fun, ESPECIALLY, when we shared the pictures with the completed drawings!!!:)😊

With both activities, “LISTENING”, was the clear learning target! A great message for the start of the school year, but really for all of life!!