



Active Insight: Evidence in Action

Tip #804



Movement-Based Language Learning Opportunities

Overview

Language is at the centre of learning, helping students **share ideas, ask questions, build understanding and connect with others**. Games, challenges, storytelling and collaborative tasks create **natural reasons for students to speak, listen, interpret and respond**. Movement can add purpose to communication, giving students opportunities to **explain thinking, negotiate solutions, follow instructions and contribute to shared learning experiences**. These interactions help bring language into **authentic and memorable contexts**.

Key Teaching Ideas

Strong language learning often occurs when students are **talking, listening, questioning and responding throughout the lesson**. Instructions, discussions, partner tasks, storytelling, presentations and collaborative challenges can all create **purposeful reasons to communicate**. Movement can help generate conversations and provide **shared experiences that students can describe, explain and reflect upon**. Language becomes something students **use, not just something they study**.

Practical Application

- **Use movement directions.** Eg: Students give, follow and refine instructions while guiding others through challenges and tasks.
- **Bring stories off the page.** Eg: Act out characters, settings, events or key moments from texts using movement and role-play.
- **Create communication challenges.** Eg: Students work together to solve problems where success relies on discussion, questioning and shared decision-making.
- **Build speaking and listening through games.** Eg: Use partner and group activities that require students to explain, describe, clarify and respond.
- **Use movement to unpack vocabulary.** Eg: Represent words, concepts and ideas physically before discussing and applying them in context.

Next Steps

Explore [Active Education Australia Resources](https://www.activeeducationaustralia.edu.au) for practical strategies that combine movement, communication and learning across the curriculum.

