

A Letter from Mrs. Schosek

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At this point in the year, your child likely has established strong relationships with their teachers and classmates and is feeling a sense of comfort in their classroom setting. With that sense of ease and confidence that comes with time, children are more eager to share their thoughts and interrupting can become more common. Therefore, this month I visited your child's class to discuss the importance of conversational turn taking and how to navigate this important social skill. Here are some key points of the lesson:

- It's ok to be excited to share an idea or thought! We just need to wait until it's our turn. If we don't, we bump into other people's words and can't hear what everyone needs to say.
- What can we do if we have something to say?
 - First, take a deep breath and wait. Listen for the talking to stop.
 - Then, either:
 - Raise your hand & keep your sounds/words turned off until you're called on.
 - Walk up to the person and wait for them to look at you. Then say, "Excuse me."
- There are times where it's OK to interrupt (an emergency). It's helpful to say to an adult, "this is an emergency" if such cases arise.
- There may be non-verbal ways to communicate without interrupting. For example, here at school, we use sign language for toilet/potty if we need to use the bathroom or we sign "me too/same" if we have a connection with what someone else is saying.

At home, there are easy ways you can build upon this learning. At dinner, you can play a "find the break" game where your child's job is to listen for breaks or silence in the conversation and raise their hand when they hear it. If they can learn to listen for those breaks, they can learn when it's their turn to talk. Additionally, as a family you can establish non-verbal ways your children can ask for something without interrupting if you're on the phone or in the middle of a conversation.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and as always, thank you for all that you do!

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