

TEACHER TIPS | LINING UP AND MOVING AROUND

Lining up and moving a group of children can be very challenging. First of all, lining up means they have to wait for other students and maintain their own place. This can be difficult for young children, who are naturally energetic. Moving from one location to the next often means there are many distractions along the way - things to look at, touch and explore. One of the best ways to keep children focused and quiet is to give them something interesting to do with their hands. Use the following signing activities to keep students actively engaged and quiet as they line up and move from place to place.

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ANIMAL FUN

While walking in a line, sign any animal (or make the animal's sound) and have the students repeat the sign as they walk.

I SPY...

Sign a color and have the students locate objects of that color as they walk. When they spot something, they can either sign the word if they know it, point to it, or fingerspell the names of objects they see which are that color.

OPTION: Give other cues for more challenging categories, such as round, hard, tall, etc.

COUNT ON YOUR FINGERS

As they move, have the students use ASL to count how many times they see a certain object (e.g. blue shirts, red doors, a picture with a tree in it). When you arrive at your destination, have them hold up their numbers by signing up high. Another option is to create groups and have each group count a different item (e.g. one group counts light switches and another counts doorknobs) and then compare. Add to the fun by charting the results.

1-2-3, MOVE LIKE ME

Explain that you will sign a word for an animal that moves in a distinctive way (e.g. dogs, elephants, horses, etc). Then, when they are ready to relocate, say "1-2-3, move like me!" and then sign the word. They must move to the next place as though they are that animal. You can do this in groups as well, using a different sign for each group.