Name/Title: Listening Spots

Purpose of Event: To have students learn their personal space in order to listen to the teacher.

Suggested Grade Level: PreK-2

Materials Needed: Five different colored permanent markers, semi circular place in the gym to draw the marks

Description of Idea

For my PreK - second grade students, I have drawn symbols on my gym floor to give them their own special "listening spot". The symbols I use are numbered and color coded, such as green frogs, red apples, orange buses, black bears, etc.

I use five different symbols/colors and repeat the combination starting with 1 and going through 5. For my school, I only need 24 symbols, as that is my largest class size. I got permission from my principal to use permanent markers to color these symbols in a semi-circle around the free-throw zone of our gym.

I space them out to give the students enough room to sit comfortably on them without touching the next student. I can assign students to a spot and then when I need to talk to them I ask them to return to their **listening spots**. In a semi-circle, I can see everyone, no-one is fighting over who they will sit by, and I have instant groups (all the greens, numbers, etc.).

I write down the names of the students on a chart so that a substitute teacher can have access to needed "special" information. This has been a lifesaver and has eliminated disputes over who sits or stands where when I need to talk to them.

Submitted by **Teri Charpenel** who teaches at Fulton Elementary School in Tinley Park , IL . Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 5/17/2000**.

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