

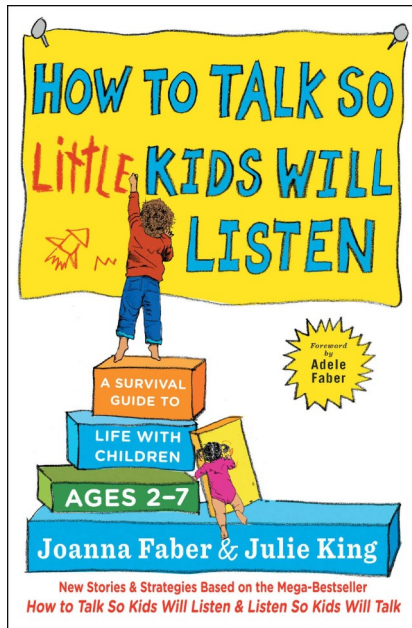
Preschool Special Education

Teacher Brianne's Newsletter

December 2024

What we worked on in November

I feature one small part of this book in my education spotlight for this month, but I highly recommend this book for all of its wonderful content.



Coming up...

December 23–January 3 – Winter Break, No school/sessions

January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School/sessions

January 31 – No school/sessions (non-instructional work day)

February 17–18 – Mid-winter break, no school/sessions

Education Spotlight: Use Play to Engage Cooperation

The book *How To Talk So Little Kids Will Listen* by Joanna Faber and Julie King has a chapter on tools to engage children to cooperate and the first and very powerful tool is to be playful. They give wonderful, concrete ideas and specific examples. See the snippet from the book's chapter summary pasted here to the side. Being silly and playful is a powerful, effective way to engage children to cooperate in transitions or difficult tasks. And much better than common strategies such as saying goodbye, pretending to walk away, which only promotes compliance out of fear of abandonment and sends the child into a dysregulated state. Use the child's interests as a starting point. Do they love trucks? Pretend to be a crane to put away toys. Do they love Bluey? Take play ideas from the show and adapt them!

1. Be Playful

- *Make it a game.*

"Can we get all the cars into the box before the timer beeps? Ready . . . set . . . go!"

- *Make inanimate objects talk.*

"I'm an empty sock. I need a foot in me!"

- *Use silly voices and accents.*

"I . . . am . . . your . . . robot . . . Must . . . buckle . . . seat . . . belt . . . now."

- *Pretend!*

"We need to climb this slippery mountain into the carseat."

- *Play the incompetent fool.*

"Oh dear, where does this sleeve go? Over your head? No? On the arm? This is so confusing! Thank you for helping me!"