

Teaching Social Skills, Creating Successful Students "Following Instructions" and "Listening"

Skill to Teach	"Following Instructions" and "Listening". This lesson has several options for practice. You can choose the practice options you want or do several and split the lesson over several days, if desired.
Age	Early elementary
Objective	Students will play cooperative games, practice keeping their hands and feet to themselves, demonstrate self-control, and listen and follow instructions to complete a Halloween or Thanksgiving-themed shape activity. Students will identify basic shapes and colors (Halloween) and identify teen numbers (Thanksgiving). Students will also write a (few) sentence(s) about the coloring page, thus integrating language arts. (Decide the criteria for the writing assignment and clearly communicate those expectations to students.)
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills poster or skill steps written on board for "Listening" and "Following Instructions" • Large space to play the games • Bubbles (if choosing to do the bubble game) • Classroom set of coloring page • One copy of teacher instructions for the coloring page • Basic colors • File folders for creating "study carrels"
Planned Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell students that there are many times within their day that they need to listen and also to follow instructions. Ask them for examples within their day (at school, home, with friends, at church, and at extracurricular activities and other events). • Tell the students the steps of "Listening". These steps are modified to be kid-friendly. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the person. 2. Wait quietly while the person is talking. 3. Do something to let the other person know you're listening. • And also tell the steps of "Following Instructions," referring to your wall poster or write the steps on the board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the person. 2. Say (or think) 'Okay'. 3. Do it right away.

Practice

Tell students they will play some fun games to practice the skills of “listening” and “following instructions”. Here are several options to practice:

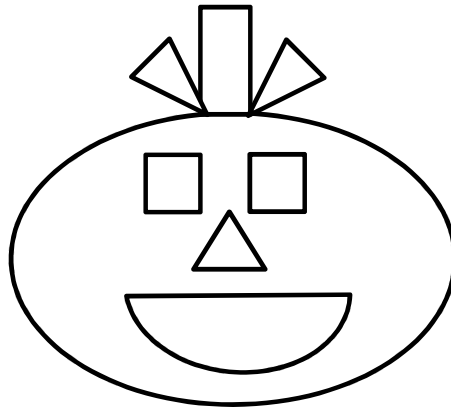
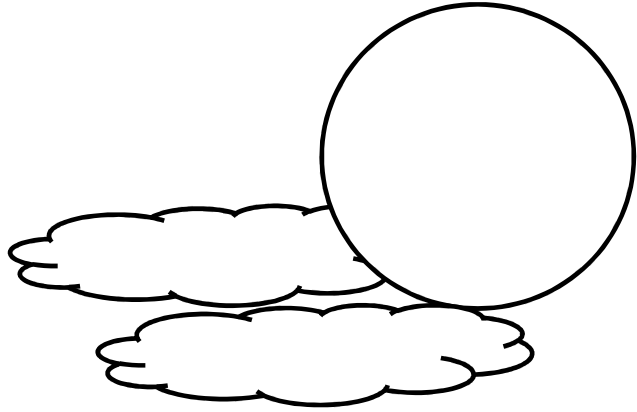
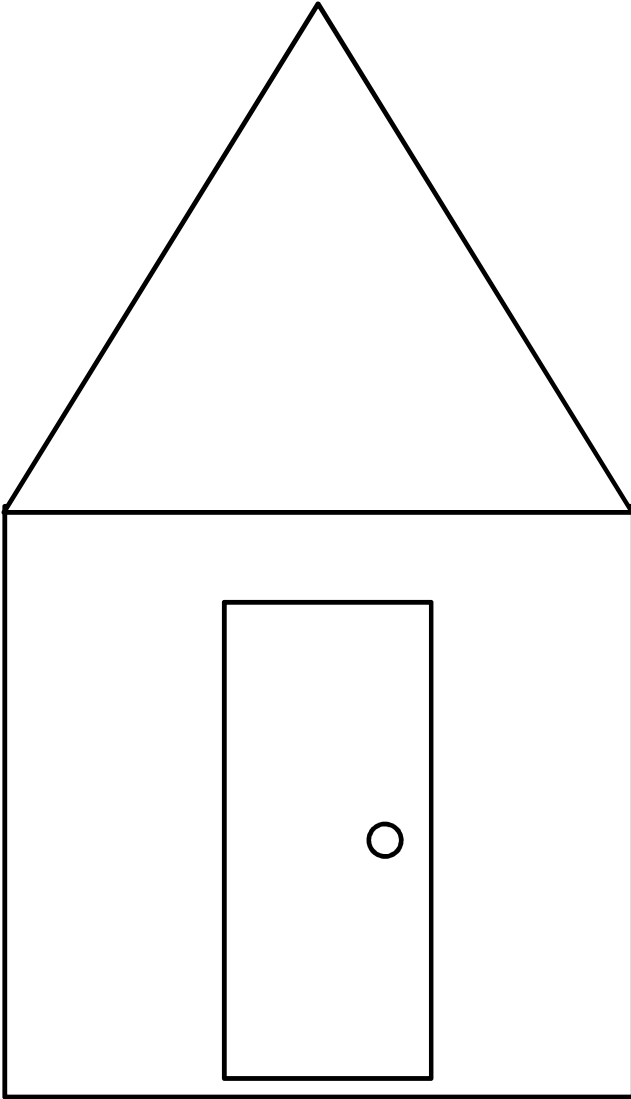
- *Simon Says:* Have the students spread out. You are the leader. You can be “Simon” or go holiday-themed, i.e. the “Jack-o-lantern” or the “Turkey” or “Scarecrow” says. Explain the rules and that they must listen closely and only follow the instructions when “Simon” says.
- *The Bubble Game:* Have the students spread out. Tell them the expectations. You will blow bubbles. The first time, they may stay in their area and pop bubbles around them. They need to watch out for furniture and other students. After that, you will blow bubbles and they have to keep their hands and feet to themselves and not pop the bubbles. Repeat several times in any order.
- *Obstacle course:* Set up a simple obstacle course around the room. Show students how to go through the course, what to do at each station, and the order. Make sure you are clear on expectations of where they are to wait for their turn, what they are to do, and where they are to go and what they are to do after their turn.
- *Follow the Teacher:* Have students take turns being the “teacher,” doing a physical motion at the front of the room while the other students copy and follow along. After a movement or two, you call on another child to have a turn being the “teacher.” Make sure and pre-teach how to wait for your turn and what to do when you’re told your turn is over.
- *Red Light, Green Light:* Have the students line up at one end of the room. You stand at the other end. Tell the students the expectations. When you say, “green light,” they will walk toward you. (Be sure and demonstrate the expectation for walking.) When you say, “red light,” they will stop. The first student to get close enough to you to give you a high five is now the “teacher” and gets to call “red light, green light.” During the game, be sure the students are walking and stopping when you say to. Send the students back to the beginning if they do not follow the instructions.
- *Holiday Listening and Following Instructions Coloring Page:* Note for the Teacher: Before completing the Halloween-themed activity, students need prior knowledge of basic colors and shapes. To be successful on the Thanksgiving-themed activity, students need to know their teen numbers. Each student needs a copy of the corresponding coloring page and a file folder to create a “study carrel.” Each student needs access to the basic colors of markers or crayons. For the Thanksgiving sheet, they need a light brown in addition to a dark brown. Tell the students they will practice listening and following instructions. Review the skill steps. Inform the students that you will call out the instructions twice altogether. Say the instruction. Wait a few seconds and monitor. Then say it again. Tell the students you will know what a good job they’re doing listening and following instructions because you’ll see them quietly coloring using the color you said.

Assessment	Informally assess students' participation during the games and coloring activity. Grade the holiday coloring paper according to your classroom procedure. Grade the writing portion of the holiday pages according to any language arts expectations that you have (about spelling, etc.).
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Name _____

Date _____

Halloween Listening and Following Instructions Coloring Page





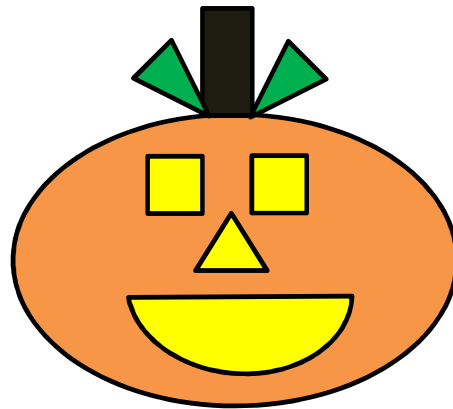
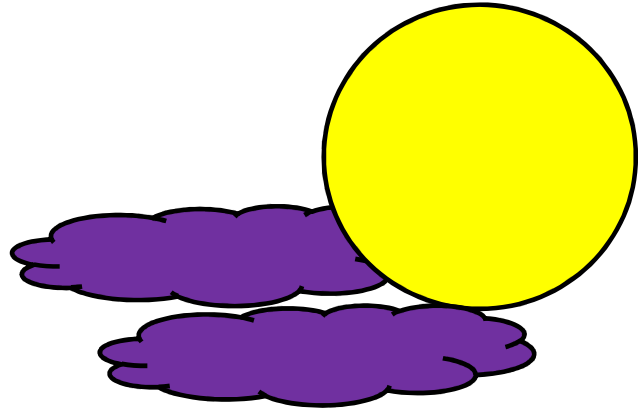
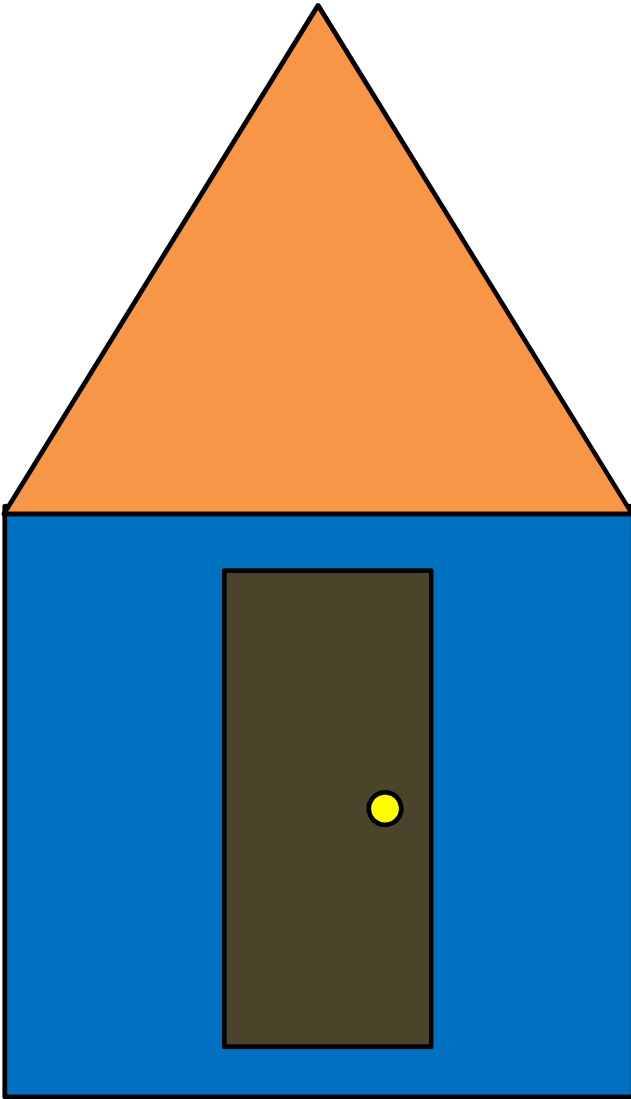
Teacher Instructions for: Halloween Listening and Following Instructions Coloring Page

Each student needs a copy of the corresponding coloring page and a file folder to create a “study carrel.” Each student needs access to the basic colors used below. Tell the students they will practice listening and following instructions. Review the skill steps. Inform the students that you will call out the instructions twice altogether. Say the instruction. Wait a few seconds and monitor. Then say it again. Tell the students you will know what a good job they’re doing listening and following instructions because you’ll see them quietly coloring using the color you said.

1. Write your name on the name line.
2. Write today’s date on the line. (optional)
3. Color the square eyes yellow.
4. Color the large circle yellow.
5. Color the clouds purple.
6. Color the largest triangle orange.
7. Color the semicircle yellow.
8. Color the small triangle that is the nose yellow.
9. Color the ellipse (oval) orange.
10. Color the rectangle that is the pumpkin stem brown.
11. Color the two triangles that are the pumpkin’s leaves green.
12. Color the tall, skinny rectangle that is the door brown.
13. Color the largest square (the house) blue.
14. Color the smallest circle yellow.

Now tell students to write a (few) sentence(s) about Halloween on the lines at the bottom of the page. Include any other particular language arts expectations that you have (about spelling, etc.).

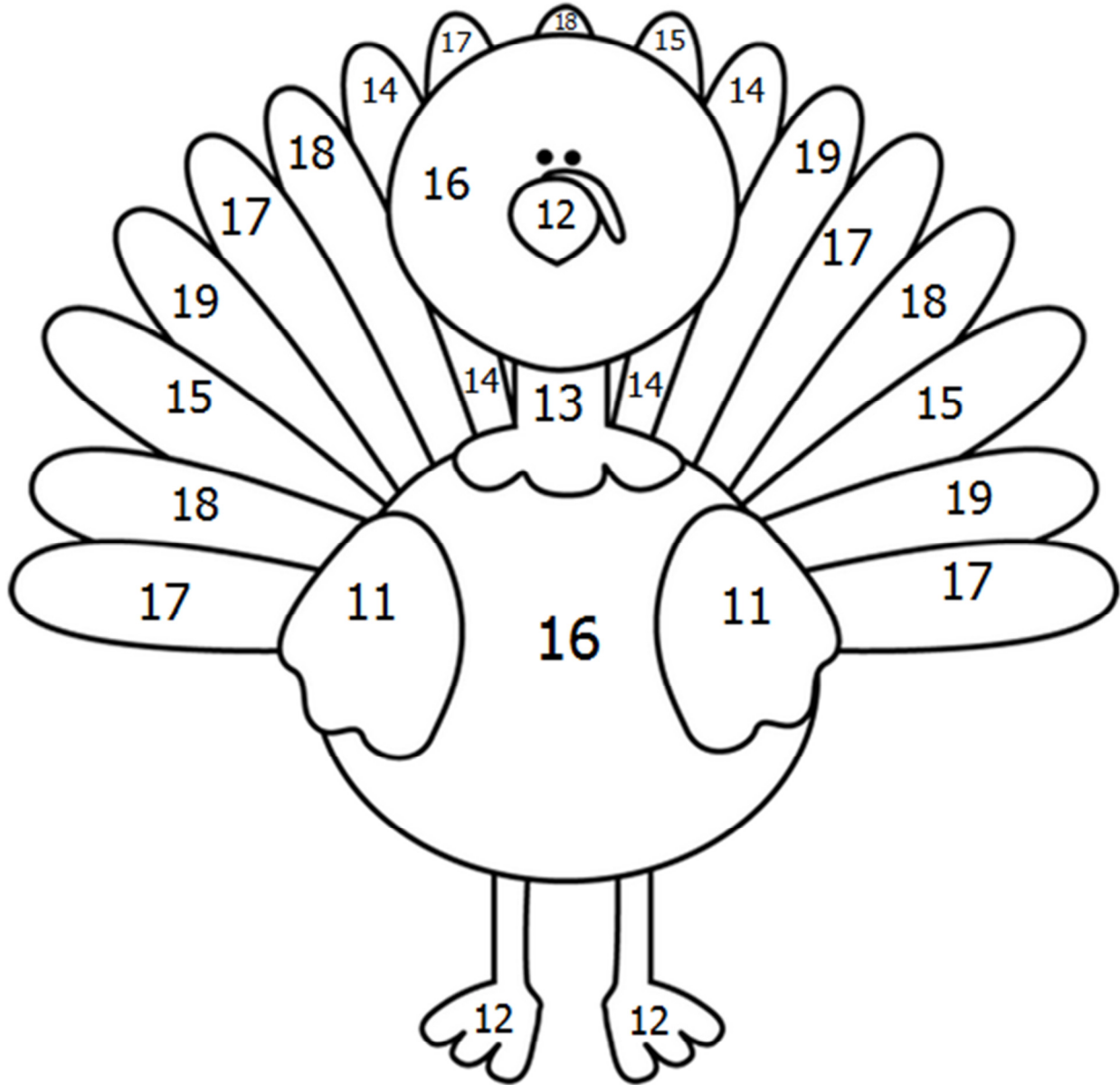
ANSWER KEY
Halloween Listening and Following Instructions Coloring Page



Name _____

Date _____

Thanksgiving Listening and Following Instructions Coloring Page





Teacher Instructions for: Thanksgiving Listening and Following Instructions Coloring Page

Each student needs a copy of the corresponding coloring page and a file folder to create a “study carrel.” Each student needs access to the basic colors used below. Note: They will need a brown and a light brown. Tell the students they will practice listening and following instructions. Review the skill steps. Inform the students that you will call out the instructions twice altogether. Say the instruction. Wait a few seconds and monitor. Then say it again. Tell the students you will know what a good job they’re doing listening and following instructions because you’ll see them quietly coloring using the color you said.

1. Write your name on the name line.
2. Write today’s date on the line. (optional)
3. Color all number 16s dark brown. (There are 2 spaces.)
4. Color all number 12s yellow. (There are 3 spaces.)
5. Color all number 11s light brown. (There are 2 spaces.)
6. Color all the number 13s red. (There is 1 space.)
7. Color all number 14s purple. (There are 4 spaces.)
8. Color all number 18s green. (There are 4 spaces.)
9. Color all number 15s blue. (There are 3 spaces.)
10. Color all number 17s pink. (There are 5 spaces.)
11. Color all number 19s orange. (There are 4 spaces.)
12. Lastly, there is a waddle- the white space above the turkey’s beak. It is too small to have a number. Color it red.

Now tell students to write a (few) sentence(s) about Thanksgiving on the lines at the bottom of the page. Include any other particular language arts expectations that you have (about spelling, etc.).