

The Power of Our Words: Teacher Language that Helps Children Learn

By Paula Denton

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Learn how teachers can use language—words, tone, and pace—to increase student engagement, build a positive classroom community, and more effectively manage behavior.

In this warm and thought-provoking guide, Paula Denton offers practical tips, real-life anecdotes, and concrete examples, including specific suggestions about language to adopt and language to avoid. Topics include:

- Using language to help children envision success
- Open-ended questions that stretch children's thinking
- Listening and using silence skillfully
- The 3 Rs of teaching language: reinforcing, reminding, and redirecting
- Saying what you mean and meaning what you say: giving brief, concrete instructions that offer meaningful, specific encouragement

The Power of Our Words advocates a sensible approach to teacher language that is backed by research and proven through decades of successful practice in elementary classrooms nationwide.

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Editorial Review

Review

This book is filled with stories and examples for using words effectively to deal with just about every challenging situation you can think of. It is a wonderful guide for teachers on how their choice of words and tone of voice can make the difference between encouragement and discouragement for children. --**Jane Nelsen, EdD**, author and co-author of the *Positive Discipline* series of books

Generous in its practical examples, *The Power of Our Words* also clarifies the principles behind using constructive language in the classroom. The book calls on us to remember that teaching is not a monologue, but a dialogue. --**Carol Ann Tomlinson, EdD**, Professor of Leadership, Foundations, and Policy, University of Virginia

About the Author

Paula Denton began working as a *Responsive Classroom* consulting teacher in 1990 and later managed program development at Center for Responsive Schools. She is the author of *Learning through Academic Choice*.

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