When you Interrupt...



FREE Mini Social Books

Adventures in Speech Pathology



What is interrupting?

When people are talking, they like to finish what they are saying.

When I talk while somebody else is already speaking, that is interrupting.

Why shouldn't I interrupt?

People might feel annoyed or get angry at me if I interrupt them. They might not want to have a conversation with me if I always interrupt them.

Interrupting makes people feel like their thoughts and ideas are not important.

What if I need to interrupt?



I might sometimes need or want to interrupt someone who is talking.

Interrupting is okay if there is an emergency.

I shouldn't interrupt because I don't like what someone is saying or I think my thoughts are more important.

A polite way to interrupt is to get the person's attention and then WAIT for them to look at me so that I can speak.

When they look at me, it means that they have given me their attention and I can tell them something.

How can I interrupt?

I can get the person's attention by:



Saying the person's name

Waiting for a pause in the conversation





Waiting for the person to make eye contact



Touch or gently tapping the person on the shoulder or arm

Raising my hand

When the person gives me their attention, I can speak

What do I say?

After I have gotten the person's attention, I should be polite. I can say:

'Excuse me...'

'Can I please interrupt...?'

'May I please ask you something...?'
'Do you mind if I say something...?'

The person will then let me know if I can speak.

Sometimes the person might say 'no', and ask me to wait. I have to keep my ideas in my thought bubble.

I should respect the person if they ask me to wait, and just wait until I can share my thoughts.

